THE TIMES

SATURDAY

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MAGAZINE

'Boris? I just don't want to think about him'

What it was really like inside No 10

Cleo Watson



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AI 'is clear and present danger to education'

School leaders announce joint response to tech

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Artificial intelligence is the greatest threat to education and the government is responding too slowly to its dangers, head teachers say.

A coalition of leaders of some of the country's top schools have warned of the "very real and present hazards and dangers" being presented by the technology.

In a letter to The Times published today, they say that schools must collaborate to ensure that AI works in their best interests and those of pupils, not of large education technology companies. The group, led by Sir Anthony Seldon, the head of Epsom College, also announce the launch of a new body to advise and protect schools from the risks of AI.

The initiative is supported by Geoff Barton, head of the Association of School and College Leaders and by the heads of dozens of private and state schools. They include Helen Pike, the master of Magdalen College School in Oxford, James Dahl, the head of Wellington College in Berkshire, and Alex Russell, chief executive of the Bourne Education Trust, which runs nearly 30 state schools.

Seldon, a former university vice-chancellor and a biographer of Boris Johnson, held a school heads' conference at Epsom this week. He told The Times that AI could bring the biggest benefit since the printing press but that the risks were "more severe than any threat that has ever faced schools".

There is growing recognition of the dangers of AI. Rishi Sunak told reporters at the G7 summit this week that "guardrails" would have to be put around it. The Times reported last week that one of the "godfathers" of AI research, Professor Stuart Russell, had warned that ministers were not doing enough to guard against the possibility of a super-intelligent machine wiping out humanity.

Gillian Keegan, the education secretary, told a conference this month that AI would have the power to transform a teacher's day-to-day work, taking out much of the "heavy lifting" by marking and making lesson plans.

Head teachers' fears go beyond AI's potential to aid cheating, encompassing the impact on children's mental and physical health and even the future of the teaching profession.

Their letter says: "Schools are bewildered by the very fast rate of change in AI and seek secure guidance on the best way forward, but whose advice can we trust? We have no confidence that the large digital companies will be capable of regulating themselves in the interests of students, staff and schools and in the past the government has not shown itself capable or willing to do so."

They say they are pleased that the government is now "grasping the nettle", but add: "AI is moving far too

Continued on page 2



Green king Monty Don has spoken about how our gardens reflect our shifting relationship with nature, and why he would ban artificial grass. Interview, pages 36-37

MAGAZINE



Lust for life
The married couple's guide to bedtime

NEWS

Giles Coren
What I know about wine and women

My big week: Suella Braverman
According to Hugo Rifkind



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Today's highlights



7.40am **David Leakey**, former Black Rod
8.05am **Sir Mark Lyall Grant**, former ambassador to the UN and national security adviser
2.15pm **Elesha Paul Moses**, right, who plays Tina Turner in the musical Tina
4.45pm **Michelle P King**, former director of inclusion at Netflix
6.35pm **Barnaby Phillips**, author of Loot, and **Adam Kupar**, anthropologist, discuss whether treasures should be repatriated

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TODAY'S EDITION

Mortgage jump as deals end

More than 116,000 households will see the cost of their mortgage jump by hundreds of pounds per month. Tens of thousands have days to prepare for an increase because of higher interest rates. Some homeowners' payments will almost double if they do nothing. **Page 10**

Islamist plotted to kill Christian

An Islamist extremist has admitted planning a terrorist attack on a Christian preacher at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park. Edward Little, 21, also admitted seeking assistance from others to plan the assault on Hatun Tash, and gathering money to buy a firearm for £5,000. **Page 21**

Revolut looks to EU, not UK

The fintech giant Revolut is considering bolstering its presence in France or Spain as its UK banking licence looks in doubt. Bosses at the London-based group believe it would be prudent to set up another regulated entity in western Europe to support its growth there. **Page 45**

52 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
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WEEKEND



GO WILD
Joe Swift's sneak preview of Chelsea Flower Show
COVER STORY

SATURDAY REVIEW



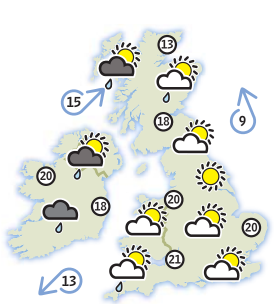
SATISFACTION
Why Bill Wyman never regrets leaving the Stones
COVER STORY

SPORT



SAM ALLARDYCE
The Leeds manager on his approach to fighting relegation
COVER STORY

THE WEATHER



Cloudy and wet in the northwest, largely dry elsewhere with sunny spells. **Full forecast, page 73**

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Energy bills to fall by fifth after wholesale prices drop

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Energy bills will fall by almost a fifth from July after nine months of record high prices, the regulator is expected to announce.

Households with typical usage should see their annual bills fall to about £2,050 a year — 18 per cent down from the £2,500-a-year tariffs that they have faced since October, according to analysts.

Ofgem is expected to confirm the change on Thursday when it announces its latest update to the energy price cap, following sustained falls in wholesale gas and electricity prices.

Wholesale prices have continued to ease following the mild winter, with benchmark UK gas prices for the month ahead falling yesterday to lows not seen since June 2021.

Analysts believe that the energy price cap could fall again in October, to less than £2,000 a year. However, this would still be significantly higher than pre-crisis norms of between £1,000-£1,200 a year and experts have warned that bills will remain unaffordable for many.

Soaring wholesale costs last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed the Ofgem-calculated cap to such high levels that the government intervened with the "energy price guarantee", subsidising household bills to keep them at a lower level than the cap.

Since October, the energy price guarantee has capped tariffs so that a household with typical usage would not pay more than £2,500 a year.

Without this guarantee, the energy price cap would have allowed suppliers to charge an average of £3,549 a year from October, £4,279 a year from January and £3,280 a year from April.

Thanks to falling wholesale costs, the level of the cap is now forecast to fall significantly from July, to just over £2,000 a year for a typical household. Since this is below the level of the energy price guarantee, the government will no longer be subsidising bills and the price cap will determine tariffs once more.

Cornwall Insight, a consultancy, forecasts that the cap will be set at £2,053.77 a year for a typical household from July while Investec, an investment bank, forecasts £2,044. From October. Cornwall expects bills to fall to £1,975.70 a year, while Investec estimates £1,933.

Both Cornwall and Investec are calling for the introduction of "social tariffs" to offer permanently cheaper rates for poorer and vulnerable households.

Craig Lowrey, principal consultant at Cornwall, said: "While bills are falling, the cap is still expected to remain comparatively high against historic norms, and those hoping to see a return to the kinds of bills seen at the start of the decade will be disappointed. Regrettably, it looks as if these prices may become the new normal."

Martin Young, analyst at Investec, said: "Price levels are still considerably higher than historic levels, and challenging for many."

Jonathan Brearley, Ofgem chief executive, acknowledged this week that it was "unlikely that the prices will return to those levels seen before 2020" and that "this undoubtedly will be a difficult winter for many households".

He also urged the government to consider a "social tariff" offering discounted rates for poorer and vulnerable households, warning: "We need to find a way that vulnerable people, including those on low incomes, can afford the energy they need without going into unmanageable debt."

Tesco chief to stand down over 'distracting' claims

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The chairman of Tesco, John Allan, is to step down after the supermarket said allegations about his behaviour risked becoming a "distraction".

Byron Grote, a senior independent director, will become interim chairman until a successor is appointed. Allan's tenure was due to end shortly, Tesco said, and he will formally step down at the annual meeting next month.

Four allegations had been made against Allan, a veteran City figure who is chairman of Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, and a former president of the CBI, the business lobby group. He allegedly touched the bottom of a senior Tesco employee last June at the retailer's annual general meeting, according to The Guardian.

Allan, 74, is also alleged to have touched the bottom of a colleague at the annual dinner of the CBI in May 2019 when he was its president.

The Times reported last month that Allan was the subject of a separate complaint by a female colleague at the CBI over a "wholly inappropriate, demeaning and objectifying" comment.

He had allegedly told a mid-ranking CBI manager, shortly before Jeremy Corbyn spoke as Labour leader at the group's annual conference in November 2019: "That dress really suits your figure."

Allan is alleged to have made inappropriate remarks during the incidents in June last year and May 2019 as well as a similar comment to another female member of CBI staff in 2021.

Tesco said its review did not identify "any evidence or complaints in relation to John at the Tesco 2022 AGM or at all in his tenure as Tesco chair".

Allan denies all the allegations, except the comment made in November 2019. He said: "It is with regret that I am having to prematurely stand down from my position as chair of Tesco plc following the anonymous and unsubstantiated allegations made against me, as reported by The Guardian.

"These allegations are utterly baseless, as the internal procedures undertaken by Tesco prove … I remain determined to prove my innocence."

Grote said: "While we have received no complaints about John's conduct and made no findings of wrongdoing, these allegations risk becoming a distraction to Tesco."

Rochdale men charged with 74 sex offences

Laurence Sleator

A group of men accused of organising a large-scale grooming operation in Rochdale have been charged with 74 sexual offences against two teenage girls, one of whom was under age.

The offences are said to have been carried out between 2003 and 2008.

The defendants include Amjad Mahmood, 50, charged with 22 offences, including seven charges of rape of an under-age girl; Sheraz Hussain, 39, charged with 12 offences, including six charges of penetrative sexual activity with a child; and Mohammed Zahed, 36, who faces six charges of penetrative sexual activity with an under-age girl. Shakeel Ahmed, 40, Khalid Mahmood, 39, Irfan Qurban, 43, Arshad Mohammed, 53, Naveed Anwar, 38 and Gulnawaz Khan, 40, were also charged.

Amjad Mahmood and Hussain were unable to attend Manchester and Salford magistrates' court for medical reasons. All of them, apart from Arshad Mohammed, were granted conditional bail and are due to appear at Manchester crown court on June 23.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
AI threat to education

quickly for the government or parliament alone to provide the real-time advice schools need. We are thus announcing today our own cross-sector body composed of leading teachers in our schools, guided by a panel of independent digital and AI experts."

The group will create a website led by heads of science or digital at 15 state and private schools. It will offer guidance on the latest developments in AI and what schools should use and avoid.

Seldon, who wrote a book on AI in 2017, said that the greatest threat for teachers and pupils alike was "infantilisation". "Learning is at its best, human beings are at their best, when they are challenged and overcome those challenges," he said. "AI will make life easy and strip away learning and teaching — unless we get ahead of it."

On the Epsom conference, he said: "People are startled rabbits in the headlights. Every week things are changing … There's deep concern that the technology will be used for [children's] learning, their stimulation, their care. The grounding of mental health is in relationships and human contact.

"At best, technology will speed up heavy lifting and learning and free up teaching time so there can be more interpersonal contact such as debates, lectures, group problem-solving activities, arts and drama."

He added: "I'm worried young people are losing touch with reality, spending so much time interacting with augmented reality and virtual reality.

"As learning becomes more technological, their grasp of what is real and what is normal, what is true and untrue, will be progressively eroded."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said: "The education secretary has been clear about the government's appetite to pursue the opportunities — and manage the risks — that exist in this space, and we have already published information to help schools do this. We continue to work with experts, including in education, to share and identify best practice."

Letters to the editor, page 28
Britain needs an AI bill of rights, leading article, page 29
Could ChatGPT take on the big fund managers? Money, page 58

King faces battle to dislodge brother

Jack Malvern

The Duke of York has no intention of leaving his home at Royal Lodge, Windsor, and believes that the King has no power to turf him out, one of his close associates has said.

Prince Andrew, who has lived at the 30-room mansion for 20 years, is believed to be under pressure from Buckingham Palace to move to Frogmore Cottage, a smaller residence on the Windsor estate previously lived in by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

The associate, who is in regular contact with Andrew, said the duke believed that he was secure in the property because his name, not the royal family's, was on the lease with the Crown Estate. "The lease is in the duke's name so no one can take that away from him," the source said. "It has never been suggested that it could be taken away from him. It's a long lease with 80 to 90 years left on it.

"This is a lease between him and the Crown Estate. That's not a matter for the King. It's a matter for the chancellor of the exchequer. The only way you could get him to move out would be through an arrangement — he would have to agree."

The Crown Estate describes itself as a public body sitting outside government. Its board is appointed by the King on the recommendation of the prime minister from candidates vetted by a selection board that includes the Treasury.

Prince Andrew's associate said that there was "no foundation" to reports this week that he could be pressured into leaving by actions such as cutting off his electricity supply.

The source said that the King was unlikely to exert pressure on Andrew because it would not make him a "very popular person within the family". They added: "There are other members of the family who would not want to see a member kicked out."

Andrew stepped back indefinitely from royal duties in 2019 after a poorly received *Newsnight* interview in which he failed to offer sympathy to victims of his friend Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted sex offender.

In March last year he paid an undisclosed sum, thought to be about £3 million, to Virginia Giuffre, who accused him of having sex with her after Epstein trafficked her. Andrew denied the accusations.

Tom Bower, who has written biographies about the King and Prince Harry, said that Andrew's name being on the lease would not provide cast-iron protection. "What the King is saying is he won't pay for the maintenance," Bower said. "All crown leases have termination clauses, for example if you're not paying for upkeep in a way they think desirable. So I would think the lease won't protect him for ever. They can always say the paintwork isn't good enough. That's how he can be winkled out."

Bower suggested that upkeep for the house and surrounding land would cost £1 million, even without taking staffing costs into consideration. He said: "I think the King is right. He's got to slim down the number of houses in the royal portfolio and Andrew has got to come to terms with his fate. Frogmore will be a cold shower for him, but he's just got to take it."

Andrew's income is opaque. Before Queen Elizabeth died he was thought to have an annual stipend of £250,000, augmented by a £20,000 pension from the Royal Navy. The late Queen's legacy for the man often described as her favourite son is undisclosed.

The source suggested that Andrew's finances were secure, adding: "I'm sure the Queen would have left a legacy for him." Reports of him being reclusive were wide of the mark, the source added. "His life has changed with not having any royal duties any more so that means he doesn't have to have certain staff. What people don't understand is that this is a guy who doesn't drink, doesn't smoke, has never taken drugs. He goes to bed early and he gets up early. He's very regimented. This is not what the readers of the Daily Mail would like to hear because the honest truth doesn't sell newspapers."

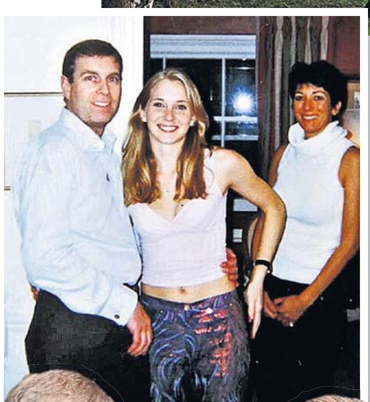
Asked whether Andrew was considering a move to Frogmore Cottage, the source said: "If I was a member of that family and I had a pick, I would pick Royal Lodge any day of the week. He's very privileged to live in Royal Lodge." The source was sceptical whether Andrew would make a return to public life as "he can't do anything without the King's say so".

The duke sold a chalet in Verbier, Switzerland, in December for a reported £19 million, although much of the proceeds are thought to have gone towards repaying a £1.6 million debt owed to the previous owner and to fund his settlement with Giuffre.

Bower said that although Frogmore Cottage had five bedrooms — two fewer than Royal Lodge — it was an obvious step down for Andrew. "The living room and kitchen are pretty poky if you're used to living in a palace," he said.

DOUG SEEBURG/THE SUN





Royal Lodge has been the Duke of York's home for 20 years but since a a scandal involving Virginia Giuffre, left, he has stepped down from royal duties and is under pressure to move



It's all repeats in Ruth Wilson's 24-hour show

Laurence Sleator

At 4pm Ruth Wilson, star of *Luther* and *The Affair*, took to the stage for an emotional break-up scene. Before doing it another 99 times.

Wilson, 41, began a 24-hour performance called *The Second Woman* yesterday at the Young Vic Theatre, London, acting out a single scene opposite dozens of different men.

In a show described by organisers as an "epic endurance performance", Wilson is performing the same scene with a revolving cast of 100 different people — none of whom have ever met or rehearsed with their new co-star.

The scene shows a woman and a man in a relationship that has lost its spark. Nimi Owoyemi was "number one" — the first to do the scene with Wilson. "It was bosh," he said.

After being approached through a production company and invited to a workshop, Owoyemi, 19, a law student from Manchester, was sent a "very loose" script and was expected to "fill in the blanks" on stage.

"There is no wrong answer," he said. "It's your show, your moment, your scene. The stage manager came and got me, and Ruth was already on stage. Then you're in and you're out. It was just great fun." Asked what it was like to star with Wilson, he said: "That was the scary bit, it's crazy isn't it?"

As Owoyemi left, he was grabbed by Kwame Kwei-Armah, artistic director of the Young Vic, who told him simply: "I thought you were bloody brilliant."

It is hoped that the fluid nature of the performance, which is due to end at 4pm today, will inspire spontaneity, making each scene subtly different from the last. Most of the men Wilson will act with are not actors, creating a dynamic rarely seen on stage.

Ruth Wilson will be acting opposite 100 men, most of whom are not actors and none of whom have rehearsed the scene



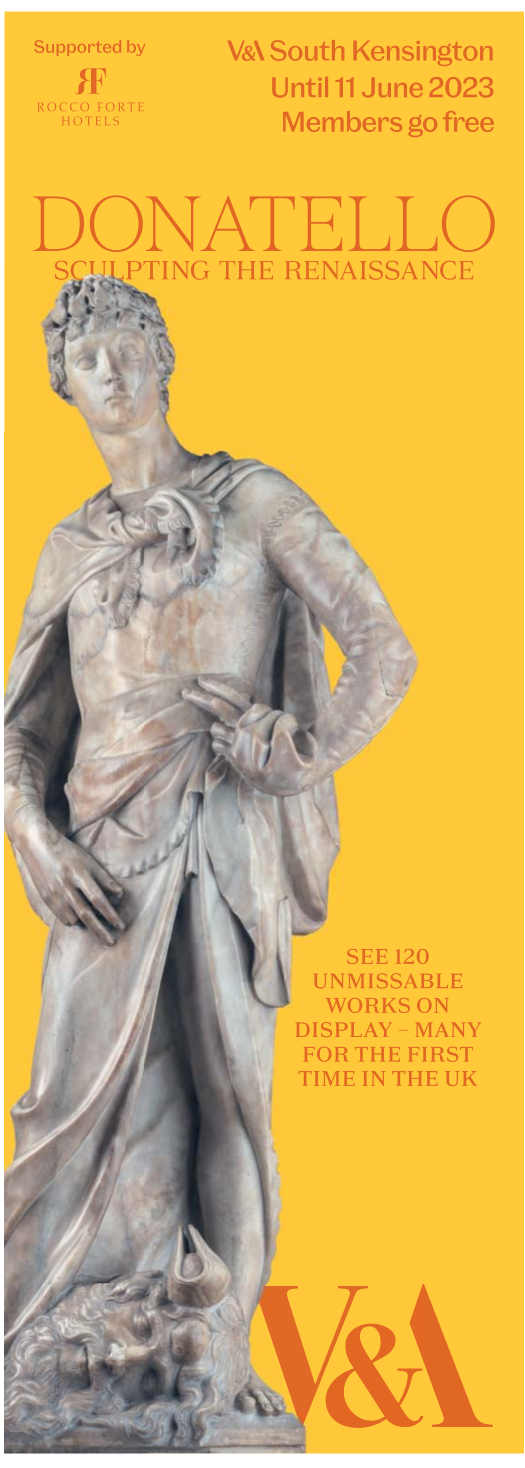
The audience are invited to stay as long as they like and a single scene lasts about seven minutes. A 15-minute interval every two hours gives Wilson time for a short rest.

Ruh Taylor, 26, had come from Cambridge on her own and taken two days off from her job at a bar to try and get tickets. "My plan is to stay in there and just go with it," she said. "It's a once in a lifetime experience."

Liz Kyriacou, from Enfield, said: "I imagine I will stay a couple of hours. For me it's the unpredictability of it and her having to deal with it all, testing her acting prowess, finding that chemistry with each man."

She was also intrigued to see who the men would be. "Am I going to see my husband? I don't know."

Audacious stage marathon deserves respect, leading article, page 29



News

ELLIOTT FRANKS



On song Final rehearsals for Wozzeck, written in 1922 by the Austrian composer Alban Berg, which opened last night at the Royal Opera House in central London

Telling children you're on a diet can ruin their relationship with eating

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent, Dublin

Parents should avoid telling children that they are going on a diet, according to new national guidelines.

Exposing children to negative language about weight and body shape puts them at risk of developing a lifelong bad relationship with food, experts say.

Parents are told not to "criticise your own weight or appearance and that of other people" in the advice, put together by a team at the University of Bath and British Dietetic Association.

Those hoping to lose weight should talk about "wanting to improve your health and energy, and avoid talking about diets and dieting".

Instead of saying they are on a diet, parents are advised to phrase it as: "I don't feel healthy. I'd like to feel more healthy, more energetic, so I'm going to eat better — shall we do this together?"

The guidance, backed by the government's Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, was presented at the European Congress on Obesity in Dublin.

Professor Fiona Gillison, from the University of Bath, said: "Talk about doing exercise that you enjoy, so your children see you exercising and enjoying it rather than seeing it as a chore. And if people are talking about dieting around you, say 'Can we not talk about dieting, can we please talk about healthy eating around the kids?' "

Examples of negative language that should be avoided include saying you are "miserable" while on a diet or trying to "control" your weight.

The advice is based on a review of 42 studies examining conversations between parents and children about weight, and how they affect children's wellbeing. This revealed that self-critical "weight talk" was linked to negative self-image and a dysfunctional relationship with eating. Encouraging children to be more physically active and to eat more healthily, in contrast, was shown to have a positive effect.

A separate study, led by the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, supported enrolling overweight toddlers on NHS schemes to combat obesity. The research said that holding workshops with parents on cooking and nutrition helped preschool children to develop healthy habits for life.

Dr Simon Russell said: "The early years are an important period for healthy growth and development. Lifestyle behaviours adopted at this age have a good chance of being carried forward." He added that schemes were most effective when help was offered to all families in any given setting, such as a nursery, rather than only those with weight problem.

NHS figures show that more than one in ten children are overweight or obese by the time they start primary school.

Researchers from University College London, who analysed 38 interventions, said that new parents should be taught about the importance of healthy eating, sleep and restricting screen time. Their analysis suggests schemes could cut the percentage of under-fives classed as overweight by about 1 per cent — or 7,200 a year in the UK.

A scheme in Sweden offers new parents nine one-to-one counselling sessions about nutrition and exercise, starting when their baby is eight months. Another programme in Switzerland has looked at limiting screen time in pre-school children who are carrying too much weight, as well as holding fitness and healthy eating sessions. It was found to increase aerobic fitness by 11 per cent while cutting body fat by between 5 and 10 per cent.

We're monetising obesity and its cure, Janice Turner, page 27

Streeting: I'll crack down on junk food and vaping

TIMES Health Commission

Kat Lay Health Editor
Rachel Sylvester

Labour is prepared to use "the heavy hand of state regulation" to force food companies to make their products healthier, the shadow health secretary has said.

Wes Streeting said the sugar tax on soft drinks had been an "effective public policy intervention on public health" and suggested it could be extended to other products.

At a hearing of The Times Health Commission, a year-long inquiry into health and care, Streeting also said the tobacco industry should expect regulation on the promotion and sale of vaping products to children. He promised to come down on shops selling vapes to children "like a ton of bricks".

He said society appeared "blind to the fact we have now just addicted a whole generation of children to nicotine with really significant consequences for their health, and for their wellbeing". He said that although he was convinced of the benefits of vaping as a tool to quit smoking, "this is still a harmful product".

A ban on promotions of food high in salt, sugar and fat was due to come in last October as part of the government's strategy, but was pushed back a year. Streeting said that delay should have been seen as "an opportunity for the food and drink industry to demonstrate what they will do for the health and wellbeing of the nation without the heavy hand of state intervention".

Instead, he said, "we see Nestlé introducing new Kit Kat cereal and saying it's nutritious." Nestlé has said it is open to regulation that incentivised all companies to make healthier products.

Streeting reiterated plans to ban junk food advertising aimed at children by 2025, saying there would be no delay.

He said the soft drink industry levy was "without doubt one of the most effective public policy interventions on public health under the Conservatives — about one of the only ones".

The levy adds 18p per litre to the price of soft drinks with between 5g and 8g of sugar per 100ml, and 24p per litre to soft drinks with even higher sugar levels.

Quintagram® No 1633

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Marry (3)

_ _ _

2 Ruffian (4)

_ _ _ _

3 Feeling of excitement (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Soak, drench (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 City of northeast England (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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E	F	G	H	I	L	N	N
N	O	R	R	R	S	S	S
S	T	T	T	U	U	U	W

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Cryptic clues Review p57

Another baby for Boris

Boris Johnson and his wife, Carrie, are expecting a third child. She revealed on Instagram that a "new team member" would be "arriving in just a few weeks". Mrs Johnson, 35, shared a photo of her holding hands with the couple's two children, Wilfred, three, and Romy, 17 months. The former prime minister, who is 58, has four children with his ex-wife Marina Wheeler and a daughter born in 2009 as a result of his affair with the art consultant Helen Macintyre.

BBC impartiality review

The BBC will review its coverage of topics such as migrant boats, Rwanda deportations and Ukrainian refugees to assess the corporation's impartiality. The issue came into the spotlight after Gary Lineker, the *Match of the Day* presenter, criticised the government's language around migration, leading to a review of its social media guidelines.

Bezos wins Nasa deal

Nasa has announced that Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin will be the second company to build a lunar landing craft under its Artemis programme to return astronauts to the moon. The space agency is already working with Elon Musk's SpaceX on a descent system that will touch down as early as 2025. Blue Origin will receive just over £2.73 billion under the contract.

Jail terms extended

Parents who were jailed for the manslaughter of their disabled daughter Kaylea Titford, 16, who died in squalor in Newtown, Powys, in 2020, have had their sentences increased. Sarah Lloyd-Jones and Alun Titford were jailed for six years and seven-and- a-half years but the court of appeal extended this to eight years and ten years.

Jade Jagger is fined

Sir Mick Jagger's daughter Jade has been fined in Ibiza after a street altercation with police who were tackling a man. Jagger, 51, was fined £1,040 for resisting the authorities, £173 for causing minor injuries and £695 in compensation to a police officer. The man, named in court as AW, was sentenced to four months in prison for assault and battery.

Criminal ran £100 million fraud factory from his flat

Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor
David Woode

With top-up packages and two-for-one deals, flashy advertising and specialised customer services, iSpoof resembled an upmarket technology company.

Instead it was an online fraud factory that enabled criminals to masquerade as banks and other legitimate services to fleece tens of thousands of victims out of tens of millions of pounds.

Detectives have revealed how one of UK's biggest frauds was masterminded by a low-level criminal who had little technological expertise but made up for it with marketing wizardry.

The Metropolitan Police are pursuing dozens of criminals who used Tejay Fletcher's spoofing technology service, which had 58,000 users at its peak.

Fletcher, 35, was sentenced at Southwark crown court yesterday to 13 years and four months in jail for creating and running iSpoof.

The court was told of the "harrowing experience" of those who fell prey to iSpoof, who described their "businesses suffering, substantial personal financial problems, sleeplessness, depression and emotional stress and fallouts with family members due to the losses".

Addressing Fletcher's apology, Judge Sally Cahill KC said: "It is submitted on your behalf that whilst you knew there were victims, you did not appreciate the effect on victims until you saw the impact statements … that simply indicates that you did not care either who the victims were or what the impact was upon them. Your late expression of remorse is more driven in my view by regret for being caught." At one point as many as 20 people every minute were being targeted by callers using the site's technology, which made it look like calls were coming from banks and building societies. Fraudsters stole more than £43 million from UK victims and more than £100 million globally.



Tejay Fletcher employed foreign coders to build the technology

The Met, which carried out its largest cybercrime operation to target iSpoof, believes there were 70,000 potential victims in Britain alone. The biggest loss was a couple cheated out of £2.5 million, their entire pension fund.

Fletcher lived a luxury lifestyle as he masterminded the scam from his waterfront flat in east London. The website took in a total £4 million.

John Ojakovoh, for the prosecution, said that Fletcher was arrested at his girlfriend's house in Hackney on November 6 and was "evasive about a Lamborghini parked nearby".

The court was told that the £230,000 silver sports car belonged to Fletcher and was seized by police. During a search of his home, officers recovered two Range Rovers worth £120,000, a Rolex watch valued at £11,000 and a money counter which was "indicative of the large amount of cash going through the premises", the court was told. Detective Superintendent Helen Rance, who led the investigation, said that it was among the most sophisticated frauds because of its massive scale and slick marketing.

Fletcher pleaded guilty to four offences committed between November 30, 2020, and November 8 last year. He was convicted of making or supplying articles for use in frauds, encouraging or assisting the commission of an offence believing it would be committed, possessing criminal property and transferring criminal property.

He had little technical know-how but found coders from Iran and Pakistan to build the technology. While there are many illegal websites offering spoofing technology, Fletcher's was available on the open web and he advertised on the encrypted app Telegram.

He offered starter deals such as £10 for a 20-minute taster session. Criminals paid subscriptions of between £150 and £5,000 a month for the software and could buy "bundles" of top-up minutes. Users could even ring up for specialised customer services help.

Detective Constable Ravi Raja Rayan, from the Met's cybercrime team, said that fraudsters could use the technology to spoof their phone calls and trick customers into believing them. However, iSpoof also had automated features such as interactive voice recording tracks which sounded like a bank's automated recording. Fletcher offered built-in scripts for users and call-handling music and the sound of call centre backgrounds to make the ruse appear more convincing.

Rayan said that iSpoof advertised bespoke scripts for fraud, with a function that allowed the user to type in what the automated "bank" recording should say to their victim.

iSpoof even used victims' numbers, so even if transactions raised alarm with their bank the criminals could purport to be them and offer reassurance about suspect transfers. However, the boast that users could remain "totally anonymous" was shown to be false after the Met launched an international operation with the FBI and European law enforcement agencies, gathering identifying information from servers in other jurisdictions.

Detectives are pursuing the site's biggest criminal users. There have been nearly 170 arrests in the UK and nearly 700 across the globe.

Behind the story

A victim of iSpoof was defrauded of nearly £150,000 after paying what he thought was a legitimate £1.20 fee to receive some post. Mark, whose name has been changed, said it was the most "traumatic and challenging period of his life". The owner of a car dealership, he said it had placed the future of his business in jeopardy and that he was still fighting with HSBC to get the money back.

He initially responded to the "bill" in May last year. But 24 hours later he received a phone call purportedly from HSBC. They warned Mark that his account had been compromised. He checked that the caller's number matched with one on HSBC's website, which it did, before he was taken through a detailed identification verification process.

The caller, who adopted the name of a legitimate senior fraud investigator, said Mark needed to act "extremely quickly" to keep his money. Over the next few days he was told to move his money from his business account to a personal one and to set up new accounts. Small amounts and then larger transfers of £25,000 were made until Mark had sent £147,000. The fraudster then had enough information to transfer it into an unknown bitcoin account and "my money was then lost to me".

In a victim impact statement, Mark said: "I feel like I cannot speak to people about this, and I feel isolated and lonely … I don't know if I will be able to continue to trade."

METROPOLITAN POLICE



Tejay Fletcher's crimes funded a lavish lifestyle, with cars including a Lamborghini

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Zelensky set fair for G7 as US

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor, Hiroshima
George Grylls Defence Correspondent
Richard Lloyd Parry

President Zelensky is set to fly to the G7 summit in Japan this weekend after the United States agreed to allow F-16 fighter jets to be sent to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian leader had been scheduled to address the Hiroshima meeting virtually but it was announced yesterday morning that he was instead preparing to appear in person.

The news of Zelensky's visit came as it emerged that the US had dropped its veto on the export of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine. President Biden had come under pressure from European allies and the US Congress to approve the transfer of combat aircraft to Ukraine.

Biden also said that Washington would support a plan to train Ukrainian pilots on F-16 fighter jets.

Zelensky welcomed the "historic decision" by the US to support sending jets to Ukraine. "This will greatly enhance our army in the sky. I count on discussing the practical implementation of this decision at the G7 summit in Hiroshima," he said.

Ukraine has received ex-Soviet MiG-29 fighters from Poland and Slovakia but is lobbying for more advanced western aircraft that it claims are "four or five times" more effective than the jets in its fleet. The White House has not received any formal request to transfer the US-made F-16s to Kyiv but would approve any such demand from European countries, officials told CNN.



Ukraine's European allies were previously banned from transferring the US-made F-16 fighter jets for use by Kyiv

Biden told G7 allies that the US would help allies to set up a training programme for Ukrainian pilots.

The Netherlands and Denmark are among the European countries operating F-16s that have suggested they may be willing to give them to Ukraine.

The Netherlands has 24 F-16s that are due to be scrapped next year as it upgrades its fleet to next-generation F-35s. Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister, has previously said that the country has "no taboos" on what equipment it could give to Ukraine. Rishi Sunak announced a "coalition" to secure the planes for Kyiv at a meeting with Rutte this week.

Denmark has 30 F-16s while Belgium, which also operates the aircraft, recently announced that it was ready to begin training for Ukrainian pilots.

Biden said that the United States "will support a joint effort with our allies and partners to train Ukrainian pilots on fourth-generation fighter aircraft, including F-16s, to further strengthen and improve the capabilities of the Ukrainian Air Force," the official said. "As the training takes place over the coming months, our coalition of countries participating in this effort will decide when to actually provide jets, how many we will provide, and who will provide them."

Yesterday Zelensky made a surprise visit to Saudi Arabia, where he attended a meeting of the Arab League en route to Japan, where is expected to arrive tomorrow.

While at the G7, the Ukrainian president will meet Indian prime minister Narendra Modi as Kyiv tries to rally support from countries that have adopted more equivocal stances on the Russian invasion. He will also have the opportunity to meet President Lula of Brazil, who has been invited to the summit by Japan.

The fact that the summit of G7 members — Britain, the US, France, Germany, Canada, Italy and Japan — is taking place in Hiroshima, the site of the 1945 atomic bomb, will give Zelensky's visit particular resonance.

As well as posing with other world leaders at Hiroshima's peace memorial park yesterday morning, Sunak laid a wreath and left a message that read: "Shakespeare tells us to 'give sorrow words'. Yet language fails in the light of the bomb's silent flash. No words can describe the horror and suffering of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But what we can say, with all our hearts, and all our souls, is 'no more'."

At the end of the first day of the meeting, the G7 leaders promised to extend existing sanctions to cover manufacturing, construction, transport and business services, as well as industrial tools and machinery that allow Russia to build military equipment.

"We will starve Russia of G7 technology, industrial equipment and services that support its war machine," the statement said. "We will broaden our actions to ensure that exports of all items critical to Russia's aggression, including those used by Russia on the battlefield, are restricted across all our jurisdictions."

Russian metal and diamond exports will be restricted and G7 countries will co-operate in using technology to identify the source of precious stones.

The leaders also pledged more action on energy. "We will continue to reduce Russia's revenue to finance its illegal aggression by taking appropriate steps to limit Russia's energy revenue," the leaders said. "We are determined to continue on this path so that Russia is no longer able to weaponise energy against us."

Japan's willingness to host Zelensky underscores its own growing determination to help repel Russia's aggression. When the G7 — then the G8 — expelled Russia over its invasion of Crimea nine years ago, Japan took a much less critical stance. It still does not have a formal peace treaty with Russia after the Second World War but was at the time trying to develop better relations with President Putin.

Since the war began last year the Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, has said he wants to double defence spending, has sent defensive equipment to Ukraine and helped western countries appeal to other nations in the region to toughen their stance towards Russia — especially amid fears of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

Yehor Cherniev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's national security committee, said that F-16s could be in operation within four months of the start of training.

"When we have well-trained pilots, the F-16s will be in the sky over Ukraine and will help us to move forward," Cherniev said. "It's important to us, not just as one more tool for our air defence system, but also to cover our infantry from the sky, because without it we would have more losses."

African nation becomes zombie host for Kremlin mercenaries, pages 40-41







Rishi Sunak with fellow G7 leaders on the way to the Itsukushima shrine in Hiroshima. As the PM visited Shukkeien Garden,

We'll join forces to defend small nations

Henry Zeffman

Rishi Sunak and other world leaders are to announce new powers to help western countries tackle attempts by Russia and China to meddle with their economies.

The G7 countries are to form a "co-ordination platform on economic coercion" aimed at stopping big countries interfering with smaller ones. In 2021, China stopped all imports from Lithuania in protest at it recognising Taiwan.

As he opens a session at the G7 summit on economic security, Sunak will identify the "huge potential costs to the global economy of hostile activity" and urge countries to work together.

The co-ordination platform on economic coercion will become the main way the G7 nations can work to draw up "rapid responses" and to "give each other early warning of possible crises".



Rishi Sunak, second from right, has highlighted the threat from China. A G7 coalition aims to protect the economies of smaller countries from larger nations

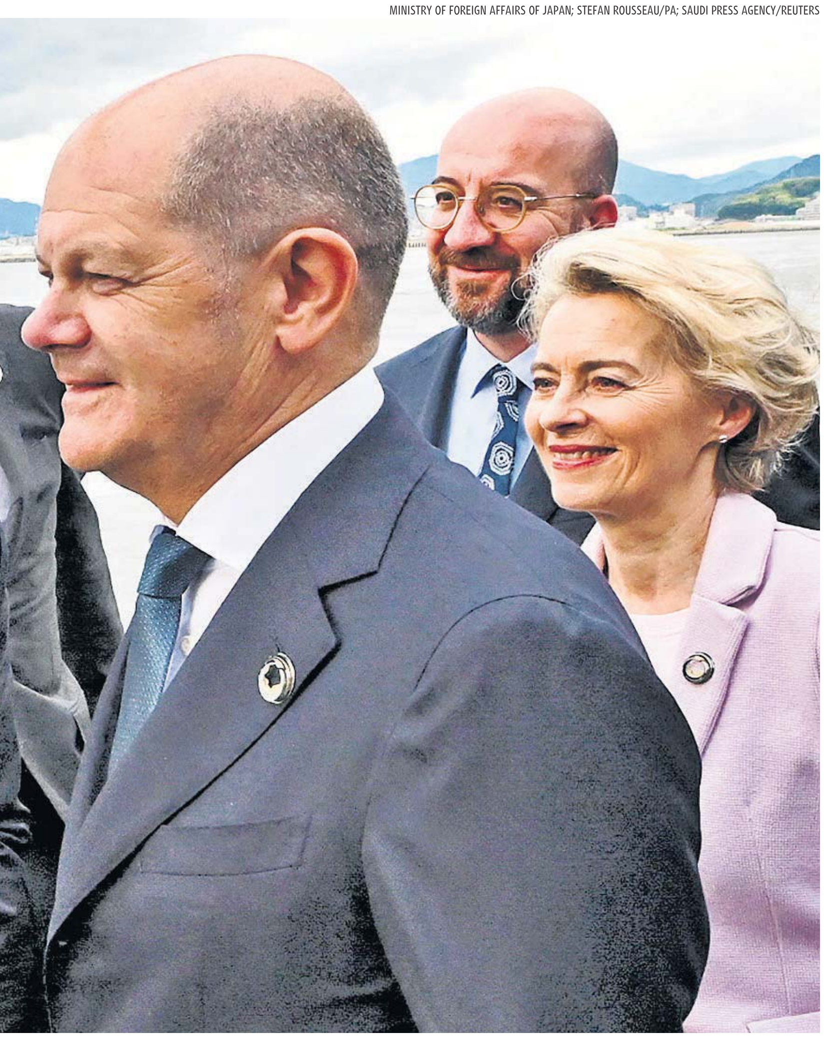
Ahead of the meeting, Sunak said: "We should be clear-eyed about the growing challenge we face. China is engaged in a concerted and strategic economic contest. And when Russia weaponised Europe's energy supplies, it was a sign of what can happen when we rely too much on states who don't share our values.

"Our collective economic security matters now more than ever. By working together and avoiding competition between friends, we can lift our prosperity, innovate faster and out-compete autocratic states."

Last week China accused the G7 of undermining "fair competition" after reports about this plan. Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for the Chinese foreign ministry, said: "If any country should be criticised for economic coercion, it should be the United States."

backs lift-off for fighter jets

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN; STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA; SAUDI PRESS AGENCY/REUTERS







President Zelensky sought support at an Arab League meeting in Saudi Arabia

Darn popular: Japan sells out of PM's baseball socks

Henry Zeffman

Rishi Sunak's popularity in the UK may be in question but at least he can sell socks in Japan.

The prime minister wore special red socks bearing the logo of Hiroshima Toyo Carp to his dinner with Fumio Kishida, the Japanese prime minister, on Thursday. They are Kishida's favourite baseball team and are based in Hiroshima, where the world's leaders have gathered for the G7 summit. Sunak, a fan of Southampton, told Kishida: "I hope your baseball team has had a better season than my football team."

After the picture was shared on social media, the socks, which cost about £8 and are only sold in five shops in Hiroshima, became hot property. Yesterday customers were waiting for the stores to open to get their hands on a pair after they sold out online. Satoko Murai, the vendor responsible for the sales, told Chugoku Shimbun, the Hiroshima daily newspaper: "It's like a dream … I can't stop shaking."



The socks bear the logo of the Hiroshima Toyo Carp baseball team

Recognition for the Korean Hiroshima survivors, page 42

Sunak rests his hopes on feelgood factor returning

The Tories will make tax cuts but restoring faith may not be easy, write **Steven Swinford** and **Oliver Wright**

As Rishi Sunak settled in for an 18-hour flight to the G7 summit in Japan early on Wednesday morning, he looked tired. Having only arrived back from a trip to Iceland at 2am he found himself fielding questions from political journalists in the back of the plane.

Despite his exhaustion, Sunak was animated — particularly when it came to the economy. That morning the Institute for Fiscal Studies had warned that the tax burden was on course to be at the highest peacetime level, with one in five people dragged into the higher rate, including teachers, nurses and other middle-income earners.

Sunak, who views himself as a low-tax conservative, appeared to bristle at the suggestion before giving a more positive vision of the economy.

"What I would say is recently we've seen massive upgrades in our growth forecasts from a range of people including the Bank of England and others including the IMF previously," he said. "You can see that in surveys from chief financial officers and other things — economic optimism is increasing, consumer confidence is increasing."

Disposable income for households, he said, is "hugely outperforming" previous forecasts. "There are a lot of signs that things are heading in the right direction," he said. Next week inflation is expected to fall into single digits for the first time since the autumn.

For Sunak that economic optimism is both a fiscal and political necessity. The prime minister has set himself a target of halving inflation by the end of the year and there is a broad consensus he will hit it, and the hope is that people begin to feel better-off next year.

The Tory strategy for winning the next election is, on the surface, relatively simple. Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, will unveil a package of tax cuts in his autumn statement which will be implemented next April. They are expected to include cuts to the headline rate of income tax along with potential inheritance tax cuts.

Delaying the general election until autumn next year will allow time for the economic outlook to improve further and for the impact of the tax cuts to take effect. In No 10 there is said to be near "total confidence" that the plan will work, that the narrow path to victory is achievable. "There are no signs of panic, they're just really confident," a senior government source said.

Not everyone in government, however, shares that sense of certainty. Inflation has already proved "stickier" than expected, particularly for food prices, and the state of people's mortgages are being viewed with particular concern. More than 1.5 million households are on the precipice of huge increases in mortgage repayments because their cheaper, long-term deals are coming to an end this year. A homeowner on a two-year fixed deal with a £250,000 mortgage on a 30-year term could see their monthly repayments rise by nearly 40 per cent to £1,382. The effect is even more seismic in London and the southeast.

"The worry is that this isn't happening all at once, it's constant," one senior government source said. "Every month hundreds of thousands of people are suddenly seeing their mortgage repayments rise by hundreds of pounds. A 1p cut in income tax is worth around £175 for people — we're talking about that every month with people's mortgages."

Labour sees the opportunity and will continue to hammer home its message about the Tory mortgage penalty. It believes that the memory of Liz Truss's disastrous mini-budget has irrevocably tied higher mortgage costs to the Tories in the minds of voters.

Senior shadow cabinet ministers, campaigning in the local elections, were struck by how much the cost of living was still the dominant issue on the doorstep and believe that any attempts by the government to portray the problem as fixed will badly backfire.

"Even if they do bring down inflation to 2 per cent, prices are still not going down and that's what matters to people," said one. "They still feel worse-off and the government is ignoring it." It means that Sunak's task is particularly delicate. Every time he highlights improvements in the economic outlook, Labour is on hand to accuse him of being out of touch with the cost of living crisis affecting millions of people.

The attacks are increasingly personal, directly targeting Sunak's wealth. This week Sir Keir Starmer, the labour leader, used an interview with The Times to suggest that Sunak suffers from a "disconnect" with voters because of his privileged background. These attacks are fast becoming the norm of exchanges at the dispatch box.

"We're going to keep on hammering that home," one senior shadow cabinet minister said. "It is a big area of weakness for him because it does resonate with voters."

There is also a broader fiscal concern: can Britain afford to cut taxes? In the Treasury there are already fears over the cost of public sector pay settlements in autumn, additional funding needed for the NHS next winter and the continuing impact of rising interest rates on government borrowing. "Fiscally, it's not the time for tax cuts," one minister said. "But politically they are a necessity."

In the Treasury, Hunt is growing increasingly frustrated at what he views as the "narrative of decline" — claims that Britain is an economic "basket case" and an outlier when it comes to the rest of the world on economic growth. He fears that if the narrative persists there is a risk it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

A source close to Hunt said: "Despite some global body blows, Britain has avoided recession, unemployment remains at near record lows, and the IMF says our long-term growth prospects are higher than France and Germany. Reports of permanent decline are greatly exaggerated, to coin a phrase."

The chancellor yesterday warned that the "insidious declinism" about Britain — including from some in his own party — risks becoming a "self-fulfilling prophecy". Writing in The Telegraph, he said: "We must never fall into the trap laid down by the left that it's all over. They never liked our country, which is why they were happy to resign themselves to declinism. We are different. Conservatives know in our DNA that we are a great country with a bright future – if we choose it. So let's get on and make it happen."

Despite Hunt's irritation at the doomsters there are plenty of senior figures in business who are equally annoyed with the government over what they see as a lack of high-level appreciation about their concerns.

Hunt is working with Kemi Badenoch, the business secretary, on the UK package to support advanced manufacturing that is due to be published before the summer recess.

One senior business figure said that Sunak's rhetoric about turning the UK into a science and technology superpower was not backed by the reality of dealing with Whitehall.

"It is everything from planning, to support for research and development and getting people with the right skills after Brexit," they said. "There is a feeling that the UK has lost a competitive edge."

The biggest challenge facing the Tories is the fact that even if the economy does turn around, people will still be significantly worse off — largely because of forces outside the government's direct control.

Paul Johnson, head of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the subject of Sunak's apparent ire on the plane, said: "We are poorer, we just are. There's no point in hiding from the population that that has happened. By the end of this year people are still going to be feeling worse off than they were a couple of years ago."

Additional reporting by Henry Zeffman and Chris Smyth



Kemi Badenoch is working on a plan to help manufacturing

News Politics

New Tories plot to keep the red wall voting blue



Rishi Sunak must cut immigration if he is to win the next election, a group of MPs tells **Steven Swinford**

Crowded into a large office in parliament are eight members of a new group of Tory MPs who hope to shape the party and its policies in the run-up to the next general election.

The New Conservatives, a dozen MPs who are drawn from the 2017 and 2019 intakes, want a fundamental realignment of the party so it better reflects the interests of voters in the Midlands and across the red wall in the north.

Their priorities are broad and will present potential challenges to Rishi Sunak in the coming months, although all members of the group went out of their way to emphasise their loyalty to the prime minister.

Although precise policies are still being formulated, there was unanimity in the room that Sunak must bring down legal migration and attempt to avoid breaking the Tories' manifesto pledge in 2019 to lower numbers.

Other priorities include ending the inequities of fiscal drag, reversing cuts to the size of the armed forces, taking on what they view as the "woke agenda" and putting more emphasis on apprenticeships over universities.

Prominent members of the group include Lee Anderson, the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party and MP for Ashfield, Danny Kruger, the MP for Devizes, Miriam Cates, the MP for Penistone & Stocksbridge, and Jonathan Gullis, MP for Stoke-on-Trent North.

"We mustn't have a strategy that just tries to reinforce those places in the southeast that have traditionally voted for us," Kruger said. "We need to honour the support that we won for the first time in many years, the first time in our lifetimes, in the north and the Midlands.

"We are very much behind Rishi. We think he has the opportunity to win big if he leans into the realignment of politics that happened at the last election."

LEGAL MIGRATION

One of the biggest concerns of those present is next week's migration figures, which are expected to rise to more than 700,000.

Sunak has repeatedly refused to commit to Boris Johnson's manifesto pledge to reduce net migration, in part because doing so is viewed as impossible — in 2019 net migration was less than 250,000. He instead prefers to focus on illegal migration, which he views as a more significant priority for voters.

Anderson is clear that it should be a priority. "I suspect if you knocked on 100 doors in any of our constituencies and asked them if migration was too high, 99 will say yes," he said. "As simple as that."

He said that while he believed that migration could be a good thing, there must be limits. "Most of us who sit in that chamber don't have to worry about being on the council house waiting list," he said. "They don't have to worry about getting a dental appointment. We don't just sit there in pain because their knee operation has been cancelled for the tenth time.

"These are real things that affect real people in our areas, the people we represent. Sometimes I don't think we do a very good job of it because the message is not cutting through. We need to keep gently reminding that place what's happening in the real world."

Britain, he argued, was at risk of becoming full up. "In 50 years' time our children and grandchildren will look at us on YouTube, or whatever, and say, why didn't you sort it out? If the population continues to increase at this rate and migration's a million a year, in 50 years' time there's going to be no space in this island.

"Our children, our grandchildren will say why? You had a chance to sort this out. At some stage our country will be full. What do we do then?"

Alex Stafford, the MP for Rother Valley, said that businesses had become "addicted to cheap labour".

Asked whether the Tories really could meet their pledge to reduce migration to less than 250,000, given the scale of the numbers today, the New Conservatives were adamant that the government must try.

Nick Fletcher, the MP for Don Valley, said: "I don't think it's impossible, I think it's achievable. It's always a problem when you break a pledge. You need to be seen to be working towards it as fast as you can, doing everything possible to make it happen."

Tom Hunt, the MP for Ipswich, said: For many decades the public have been shut out of the debate. It's about pressure on public services and housing.

"We need to bear down on the numbers. It's unhealthy how much of a disconnect there is between the reality of the numbers and where the public are."

ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Several of those present have previously argued that Britain should leave the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to help to stop migrant crossings.

But while some of those present, such as Kruger, argued that Britain should quit, others took a different view. Stafford said he was "agnostic" and that "we should do whatever works".

Andrew Lewer, the MP for Northampton South, highlighted Suella Braverman's argument that Britain could stop the boats without leaving the ECHR. "It's about focusing on the result," he said.

Gullis said the government should know it has the support of backbenchers to "enact its policies, regardless of what the ECHR is saying".

TAX

The fact that Britain's tax burden is on course to hit a peacetime record, with millions of middle-income households dragged into the higher rate, is a clear concern for the group. Cates called for an endto fiscal drag, where people end up in higher tax bands because the government has frozen the thresholds. "Ordinary people in ordinary jobs are now caught by it," she said. "That's impacting their productivity and their ability to afford to live."

She also raised concerns about cliff-edges in the tax system that hit families. Gullis said the government must help the "squeezed middle".

THE ARMED FORCES

Cuts to the size of the army, which is due to shrink to its smallest since the Napoleonic wars, should be reversed, the group argued. Sarah Atherton, MP for Wrexham and a member of the defence select committee, said the Ukraine war showed that Britain needed a bigger army. "The MoD have moved to some space domain, cyber, and in their vision to achieve that they cut our armed forces," she said. Gullis said that Britain

Which Tory tribes spell trouble for party unity?

New Conservatives
The latest grouping of about a dozen Tory MPs is drawn from members of the 2019 and 2017 intakes. Its primary focus is to secure the "realignment" of the Conservative Party from the "managerial" south of England to the Midlands and the red wall. Drawn from the Tory right of the party, it says its priorities will reflect those of voters on the doorstep, such as reducing immigration. The group supports Rishi Sunak.
Prominent members: Lee Anderson, Danny Kruger, Miriam Cates, Jonathan Gullis.
Trouble rating: 3/5

Common Sense Group
Established in 2020 and thought to have about 60 members. It says it wants to speak for the "silent majority of voters" who are "tired of being patronised by the bourgeois elite". It is also highly critical of the "woke agenda". Suella Braverman, the home secretary, is closely linked to the group and there is also a strong crossover with the New Conservatives.
Prominent members: Sir John Hayes, Sir Edward Leigh, Bob Blackman.
Trouble rating: 4/5

ERG
The European Research Group was once the most influential of all the Tory groupings in Westminster, with up to a hundred Conservative MPs largely following its direction. During Theresa May's premiership it ran a highly effective shadow whipping operation that resulted in record defeats for the government over the prime minister's Brexit withdrawal agreement. But since Britain left the EU and some of its most senior figures went into government the ERG is a shadow of its former self.
Prominent members: Sir Bill Cash, Mark Francois, Jacob Rees-Mogg.
Trouble rating: 3/5

One Nation
Set up in 2019 to counterbalance the ERG, the group is made up of Conservative MPs on the left of the party. Its influence was reduced early on after Boris Johnson expelled 21 Tory MPs who defied the government over Brexit. After the election it was relaunched under the chairmanship of the former deputy prime minister Damian Green to promote a centrist agenda. It is viewed more as a talking shop.
Prominent members: Damian Green, Greg Clark, Robert Buckland.
Trouble rating: 1/5

Northern Research Group
Set up after the 2019 election to champion red wall MPs' interests, the NRG was highly influential in Boris Johnson's Downing Street. Under Sir Jake Berry it backed the rebalancing of infrastructure funds to the north. Its influence has siince waned.
Prominent members: John Stevenson, Sir Jake Berry
Trouble rating: 2/5



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL

Lee Anderson, left, Andrew Lewer, Danny Kruger, Nick Fletcher, Miriam Cates, Alex Stafford, Jonathan Gullis and Sarah Atherton want to hold Rishi Sunak to the promises on migration that were made by Boris Johnson at the 2019 election

Braverman calls for family ban on foreign students

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Henry Zeffman

Suella Braverman is lobbying Rishi Sunak to back a more radical crackdown on foreign students as they prepare to announce measures before the publication of figures that will show immigration has hit another record high.

The prime minister is understood to be planning to announce proposals next week that will stop some foreign students bringing their family with them to the UK. He told the BBC that he is "considering a range of options" to reduce immigration but refused to "speculate" on specific measures. However, no final agreement has been reached between cabinet ministers over how far the proposals should go.

Sunak suggested yesterday that he has a new target of reducing net migration below half a million — almost twice the level promised by the Conservatives at the last election. Sunak, who is attending the G7 in Japan, said: "I'm committed to bringing down the levels of migration that I inherited." At the time, net migration was 504,000.

Braverman, the home secretary, is understood to want all foreign students to be barred from bringing family members with them to the UK unless they are studying a "high quality" course, such as engineering or life sciences.

But Gillian Keegan, the education secretary, backed by the Treasury, is resisting any move that goes beyond restricting the ability for one-year master's students to bring family members. They believe that would have a limited impact on the attractiveness of UK universities to overseas students and the economic contribution that foreign students make to the economy.

The Department for Education is understood to have warned that the move would lead to universities finding a way to reclassify lower quality courses to allow students to bring dependants. The Home Office fears that targeting the new restrictions only at master's students will not have a big impact.

Targeting dependants of foreign students is seen as a way in which the government could make significant progress towards meeting its pledge to reduce overall numbers because of an exponential rise under Britain's post-Brexit immigration system. The number of dependants accompanying international students for their studies in the UK has risen more than eightfold in three years to 135,788 last year.

The Office for National Statistics figures are expected to show that net migration hit another record high of about 700,000 in the year to December 2022, up from the previous peak of 504,000 in the 12 months to June.

On Friday, Sunak said that immigration is "too high", and he is "committed" to bringing numbers down to the level that it was when he entered No 10.

One minister is understood to have pushed for foreign students and their dependants to be removed from official immigration statistics because they are in the UK temporarily. Kit Malthouse, the former education secretary, called for overseas students to be taken out of immigration statistics in an interview with The Times earlier this year. Doing so would instantly reduce immigration by almost half a million based on the latest statistics.

The UK issued 485,758 study visas to students last year, who brought 135,788 dependants. It means that more than a fifth (22 per cent) of all study-related visas issued last year were to dependants. This compares with 16,047 dependants who came with 135,788 students in 2019, making up 6 per cent.

A government source said: "The issue here is dependants, it's the problem we've got to solve."

Net migration is at a record high, weekend essay, pages 32-33
My Week, Suella Braverman, page 38

must learn from the invasion of Ukraine by a "tin pot dictator".

UNIVERSITIES

The focus of successive governments on universities must come to an end and there should be a renewed focus on skills, the group said.

"Tony Blair promised me that university was the way to create a legacy of success," Gullis said. "What we've seen is a lot of university graduates not necessarily ending up in the jobs they thought they would."

Fletcher said that he had trained 60 apprentices. "Most of them have got nice cars, most of them have got a deposit towards a house, most of them have been to Ibiza twice as well," he said. "They have got huge potential and will vote Conservative."

Cates said that universities had hit "saturation point".

"There are whole swathes of second-rate universities that are getting fat on taxpayer cash," she said.

FAMILY VALUES

Kruger attracted criticism this week after he said that marriages between men and women were the "only basis for a safe and successful society".

He said that his comments had been "misunderstood", and that the new group would not focus on family policy. "All different forms of family can be successful," he said. "It is appropriate to recognise and support stable families and the emphasis of marriage ensures greater stability in general."

He added, however: "Of course people shouldn't be staying in unhappy marriages or abusive relationships."

Party holds by-election drills in case MPs resign

Steven Swinford Political Editor

The Conservative Party is drawing up plans for a succession of by-elections in the event that Boris Johnson is forced to resign and prominent supporters stand down so they can accept peerages.

The Times has been told that the party staffers will conduct a series of "by-election drills" next week in Conservative campaign headquarters as they prepare for the sudden departures of Johnson and other MPs. The former prime minister is being investigated by the privileges committee into claims that he misled parliament by denying that parties were held in No 10 during the coronavirus pandemic.

Senior Conservatives are increasingly concerned that Johnson could resign in protest if the report, which is due next month, is critical of him. He could also face a by-election if the committee decides to suspend him from the Commons for ten days or more.

Three Tory MPs who have been offered peerages by Johnson are also weighing up their futures as MPs. The House of Lords appointments committee, which vets honours, has said that the MPs cannot defer peerages until the next election.

It leaves them having to either stand down as MPs so they can move to the upper chamber or rejecting the peerages outright. The MPs weighing up their futures are Nadine Dorries, a former culture secretary, Nigel Adams, a former minister, and Alok Sharma, the former Cop26 president.

The by-election drills will look at the seats and consider who would be the best candidates, what are the priority issues and which ministers should make visits to the constituency.

Johnson has denied that he is preparing to make a "chicken run" to Henley, a constituency in Oxfordshire he previously represented. John Howell, the incumbent who is standing down, has said that Johnson would succeed him "over my dead body". A spokesman for Johnson said: "Boris Johnson is standing in Uxbridge and South Ruislip at the next election and was recently reconfirmed as the Conservative candidate there."

Dorries criticised the House of Lords appointments committee (Holac) for objecting to MPs deferring peerages until the next election. She told TalkTV: "I think Holac need probably to update their processes, because what we've had now, we are in politically unstable times. What we have now is, we've had two prime ministers who've been changed mid-term.

"Normally, a resignation list would happen at a general election. So maybe the processes need to be addressed as to what happens if a prime minister has a resignation list mid-term."

Labour admits migration may rise if it wins power

Steven Swinford

Immigration could rise in the "short term" under a Labour government because of the need to fill skills shortages, the party's chairwoman has said.

Anneliese Dodds said that in sectors where skilled workers were needed "you could see in the short term actually people who are coming increasing in number". However, Dodds said that in the medium to long term the number of migrants coming to the UK would fall because more British workers would be trained to fill skills gaps.

Asked on Sky News if Labour wanted net migration to go up or down, she said: "Labour believes that setting a net migration target isn't sensible and it appears even Rishi Sunak knows that."

Pressed further, she said: "What we would see if we had an immigration system that was working properly would be, potentially, in some areas where there's a short-term need for skills, you could see in the short term actually people who are coming in increasing in number. But in the medium and long term, a reduction because we would be training people up in our own country. We've not had that, unfortunately, under the Conservatives. We've got skills shortages and those shortages are not being filled because there's not the domestic upskilling that needs to be taking place."

Net migration figures, published next Thursday, will increase pressure on Sunak as they are expected to exceed 700,000 for 2022.

Adam Holloway, a Tory MP, called the prime minister's approach to legal migration "completely insane".

He told GB News: "Who would think that a Conservative government was presiding over effectively uncontrolled immigration? I know that at least a group of us are asking to see the home secretary next week because it's not just about the Tory party's electoral prospects that are shattered by this.

"It's about the shape and the feel of our country going forward. It's about public services — and every single MP, not just Conservative, should be looking at this. What's the point of being in office if you don't do the right thing when you actually have the power?"

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL



Rock fest A sale of rare music memorabilia, entitled Rock, Pop and Film, starts on Wednesdayat Bonhams. Among the items being auctioned are a Rickenbacker 4001 bass guitar owned by Maurice Gibb, left, a working prototype of a Fender Stratocaster made for Jeff Beck and a Gibson Les Paul owned by Noel Gallagher

Military in training for port strikes

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Hundreds more soldiers and sailors will be trained from next week to man the UK border as ministers prepare for a summer of chaos at ports.

Members of the armed forces will be given five days' training so they can check passports in the event of a wave of industrial action this summer.

The training, truncated to five days compared with three weeks given to Border Force guards, allows the military to do certain basic checks but they cannot detain suspected drug dealers, terrorists or victims of trafficking.

The training comes as two unions consider striking over pay and conditions. More than 600 soldiers and RAF and Royal Navy staff were deployed at the UK border at Christmas when thousands went on strike.

Passengers celebrated the efficiency with which the officers worked, although unions said that they left the UK border exposed to illegal activity.

The Immigration Service Union ran a ballot for industrial action which closed on Tuesday, although the results are not yet known. The Public and Commercial Services Union is considering further industrial action.

The Home Office said: "We will deploy suitable resources to meet critical demand and support the flow of passengers and goods through our border."

Mortgage misery for thousands more

Lucy Alderson
Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

More than 116,000 households will find the cost of their mortgage jumping by hundreds of pounds within weeks, stoking fears that more people will struggle to pay their bills.

Tens of thousands of people have only days left to prepare for an increase in their monthly payments because of the rise in interest rates since they last took out a deal.

In the worst cases, homeowners could have their interest rate rise eightfold and their payments almost double if they do nothing when their fixed deal ends.

More than 1.4 million people are coming to the end of fixed-rate mortgages this year. The average two-year fixed rate mortgage in June 2021 was 2.59 per cent, but it now stands at 5.26 per cent. The average five-year fixed deal in 2018 was 2.92 per cent, but is now 4.97 per cent, according to Moneyfacts.

A total of 116,046 households will come off their deal next month, according to the Financial Conduct Authority. If they do not secure a new deal, and instead move on to their lender's standard variable rate, they could face an interest rate of 7.49 per cent or more.

"Many homeowners will see their monthly payments increase beyond what they can afford," Nicholas Mendes, from the broker John Charcol, said. "A combination of those currently struggling to manage their finances and those coming to the end of their fixed rates makes the remainder of 2023 to be one of concern."

Homeowners who switch to a new deal will still have to cope with increases. Those who took a two-year fixed deal on a £250,000, 25-year mortgage could have their monthly repayments increase from £1,133 to £1,412 if they move to a new two-year deal.

On a £500,000 mortgage, loan payments would rise from £2,266 to £2,824 — an extra £6,696 a year. Borrowers with a £750,000 mortgage could find repayments going up from £3,398 to £4,237 — an extra £10,068 a year.

The biggest rises will be suffered by those who allow their mortgages to move to standard variable rates without seeking a new deal. Those who secured the cheapest two-year fix in 2021 — 0.99 per cent on a 60 per cent loan-to-value mortgage with TSB — could find payments on a £250,000 loan leaping from £941 to £1,791 as they move to a standard variable rate of 7.99 per cent, according to Moneyfacts.

Analysis

Like consistent warnings of a UK recession this year, fears over an imminent housing market crash have not materialised (Mehreen Khan writes).

The two are interconnected. A stronger-than-expected economy, supported by lower market energy prices and robust consumer spending, is part of the reason why there has been no catastrophic decline in property prices yet. House prices rose by 0.7 per cent last month.

It is also because many borrowers have not yet felt the pain from higher interest rates that they are continuing to spend on goods and services, propping up the country's modest 0.1 per cent growth so far this year.

Capital Economics' estimate of a 20 per cent drop in prices is based on mortgage rates staying at 5 per cent for at least 18 months. It is more likely that rates will come down as the economy slows, leading to overall housing price falls closer to 10-12 per cent from the peak recorded in 2021.

A wholesale collapse in the UK's housing market may never materialise, and any declines will not be on the scale recorded in the financial crisis, when the average UK home had 15 per cent of its value wiped out in 2008-09. Prices did not recover to their pre-crash levels until 2012.

The housing market in the US was also the proximate cause of the global financial meltdown, sending tremors across the property and building sectors throughout Europe. This time, housing is likely to be one of the main victims of an environment of rapidly rising interest rates.

The Bank of England has been lifting borrowing costs at the fastest pace since it gained independence in 1997. But there have been underlying changes in the mortgage market that could protect borrowers from the full force of those rate rises.

One is a shift towards mortgages with a longer duration than 25 years, which helps keep repayments lower.

Another is the direction of interest rates. The Bank is expected to carry out its final rate rise next month, with markets also pricing in the chance of rate cuts next year. This would alleviate pressure on the million or so homeowners who will need to renew their mortgage next year.

Burgeoning bills

Monthly average mortgage payments have increased significantly after a rise in interest rates

	Two-year fixed		Five-year fixed	
	Rate in June 2.59%	Rate now 5.26%	Rate in June 2.92%	Rate now 4.97%
£250,000 mortgage	£1,133	£1,412	£1,175	£1,243
£500,000 mortgage	£2,266	£2,824	£2,350	£2,487
£750,000 mortgage	£3,398	£4,237	£3,526	£3,730

2023 figures are based on remaining mortgage balance after repayments on initial loan amount. Source: Moneyfacts

More than 76,600 borrowers had missed payments worth at least 2.5 per cent of their outstanding balance by March, according to UK Finance, the body representing lenders. About 750 properties were repossessed in the first three months of this year, 50 per cent more than in the previous quarter.

The large number of people coming to the end of their fixed mortgage this year is in part down to furious buying activity in 2021, when buyers raced to cash in on a stamp duty holiday. The government scrapped the tax on properties valued up to £500,000 between July 8, 2020 and June 30, 2021, meaning homeowners could save up to £15,000.

The number of homes changing hands rose to its highest ever level, with 213,120 sales registered with HM Revenue & Customs in June 2021. Help was scaled back before the relief was fully scrapped in October that year.

Fixed deals have increased in popularity during the past decade when interest rates were at record lows. But the Bank of England has raised its base rate from 0.1 per cent in December 2021 to 4.5 per cent this month — a 15-year high. The average mortgage lender's SVR is now 7.49 per cent.

The Resolution Foundation think tank has warned that in total homeowners are facing a £12 billion increase to their mortgage bills when they come off fixed-rate deals this year.

There could be further problems for homeowners if a predicted property price crash happens. House prices have fallen by about 3 to 4 per cent on average since the peaks recorded last summer, a slower decline than many forecasters had expected at the start of the year.

Capital Economics, a consultancy, now expects an overall 20 per cent drop in property values if mortgage rates stabilise at 5 per cent until the end of next year. "The high cost of mortgage borrowing will prevent a recovery in demand, lending and sales until interest rates are cut in 2024," Andrew Wishart, a senior property economist with the firm, said. "Many of those that can't afford to buy will carry on renting, adding to demand in the rental market at a time when some landlords are likely to sell, ensuring rental growth remains strong and adding to the downward pressure on prices."

House prices have been more resilient than expected this year, with monthly prices rising for the first time in seven months in April, according to the latest figures from Nationwide. The average house price climbed by 0.5 per cent last month to £260,441.

Girls' trip to party island takes a brutal turn in director's startling debut

Film Kevin Maher

How to Have Sex
Cannes film festival
★★★★☆

Don't let the title trick you. There's nothing cheeky, sleazy or exploitative about this teen holiday drama set among the sunburnt and booze-addled British revellers that frequent the Greek hotspot of Malia in Crete. And though the milieu will be instantly familiar from the laddish comedy *The Inbetweeners Movie*, the perspective, tone and insights couldn't be more different. Here the protagonists are three teenage girls who, from the moment they arrive into their purpose-built resort, are determined to have the "best holiday ever!" We know this because they scream it repeatedly when not downing shots and roaring through bad karaoke in the first 15 minutes.

Soon, however, the initial buzz, captured and accentuated by the writer-director Molly Manning Walker's roving camera, bleeds into something much darker. Sex, of course, is on the menu. But for inexperienced 16-year-old Tara (Mia McKenna-Bruce), it becomes enmeshed with the brutal impulses of fellow reveller Paddy (Samuel Bottomley), who sees in her nervous acquiescence a blank slate for guilt-free coercion and repeated date rape.


Mia McKenna-Bruce plays 16-year-old Tara in a film bristling with realism

It's not called rape, though. Not out loud. It lives instead in the ambiguous shadows cast by this same riotous, anything-goes, "best holiday ever", blind-drunk, blackout, do-it-all-again-tomorrow party scene. Alongside Tara are two friends, the caring but clueless Em (Enva Lewis) and the insecure, jealous and borderline hostile Skye (Lara Peake).

There's also Badger (Shaun Thomas), the would-be suitor who offers Tara, and us, a possible vision of non-toxic masculinity. In one unexpectedly tender scene he carries an exhausted Tara in his arms, and puts her to bed with paternal care.

The performances bristle with easygoing realism. The dialogue, too, is a hoot. When Tara expresses her interest in Badger she says: "I think he's proper jokes!" Skye's reply? "Nah, mate, he's butters!"

McKenna-Bruce, perhaps inevitably, is the standout turn. Later on, she somehow manages to communicate to Em the pain of Paddy's actions without using a single word of dialogue — just huge, wounded eyes, pleading for recognition. It's immense work.

Manning Walker proves a gifted visual stylist, and memorably transforms the streets of Malia, at just the right moment, into something from a post-apocalyptic western. It's a startling feature debut, like the rougher, tougher, flipside of Charlotte Wells's recent award-winner *Aftersun*.
In UK cinemas later this year

Film firms still sell to Russia despite boycott by Hollywood

Constance Kampfner Cannes

Independent film companies have been accused of showing support for Russia after it emerged that several were still selling movies to the country.

Guy Ritchie's blockbuster about the war in Afghanistan, *The Covenant*, is among a series of independently-produced films said to be cashing in thanks to a Hollywood boycott of the country.

Russia was the sixth-largest market for box office revenues in the world two years ago. According to Russian state media, movies produced in the US made up about 70 per cent of the country's film market.

When President Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February last year, Disney, Sony, Warner Bros and Paramount stopped releasing films in Russia, leaving a vacuum that smaller companies have rushed to fill.


Guy Ritchie's The Covenant is among the films said to be heading to Russia

Though Russian delegations and companies with ties to the government are banned from participating in the Cannes film market, reports suggest that business has carried on in the festival's shadows.

In Cannes and elsewhere, The Hollywood Reporter has claimed that "many in the independent film world are still, quietly and covertly, selling movies into the lucrative Russian market". Russian distributors are not on the sanction lists drawn up by Western governments. "With a handful of exceptions most indies never pushed pause on their Russian business," the magazine reported.

The Ukrainian League of Cinemas wrote in an open letter: "Continuing to do business in Russia means supporting the Russian terrorist state with taxes. These taxes are then turned into weapons with which peaceful Ukrainian cities are destroyed, and our friends and colleagues are killed and maimed."

Though Hollywood studios pulled films such as *The Batman* and *Morbius* from Russian cinemas after the invasion, according to Russia's Cinema Fund more than 140 US films were released in the country last year.

Among the films said to have secured a Russian release are STX's *The Covenant*, co-written, produced and directed by Ritchie, the English film-maker known for his gangster movies, and the British slasher film *Winnie The Pooh: Blood and Honey* from Premiere Entertainment. Some of the contracts were signed before the invasion, but other films have been entering the country via subsidiaries based in other jurisdictions, or via third-party distributors.

Russian film rights are also sometimes sold alongside rights for other former Soviet states, allowing the distributors to profit from films shown in Ukraine, which the League of Cinemas said showed "special cynicism".

The union singled out the UK-based companies HanWay Films and Protagonist Pictures, as well as international companies including Lionsgate, FilmNation Entertainment and Pathé, for allegedly continuing to do business with the country. HanWay, Protagonist, STX, Premiere Entertainment, Lionsgate, FilmNation and Pathé were all contacted for comment.

Sales representatives have spoken off the record about their discomfort with their continued relations with Russia. One told the trade magazine Variety: "The reality is that it's far more financially lucrative to continue trading with Russia than losing out if the films were to be pirated."

They added: "Leading into 2023 we can just barely continue to claim deals were signed before the war. For new titles it will be difficult to continue using this argument."

Another said: "I really don't have any justification for continuing working with Russia. I just don't have a clear answer for that, even for myself."





YARA NARDI/REUTERS

Honorary Palme d'Or for Ford's last crusade

It has been an emotional couple of days for Harrison Ford (Constance Kampfner writes). In Cannes for his latest, and by all accounts last, Indiana Jones film, the actor has been moved on several occasions as he waves goodbye to the character he has played since 1981.

Ford, 80, fought back tears at the premiere of the fifth instalment of the franchise, *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*, where he received a surprise honorary Palme d'Or. A reel of his greatest hits played on screen left him "very moved". "They say when you're about to die, you see your life flash before your eyes, and I just saw my life flash before my eyes," he said.

At a Cannes film festival press conference yesterday, he seemed to tear up again, describing the "magic" of working with actors such as Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Mads Mikkelsen on the film. But he said it was time to "sit down and rest a little bit".

All the nostalgia led James Mangold, the director, to step in. "Reflecting on a career this long, the atmosphere is getting a little … listen, the first time we had a night shoot on this film we wrapped up at five in the morning. We all wanted to go to bed. Harrison picks up his bicycle and goes riding for 50km," he said. Asked by a reporter how he stayed in shape at his age, Ford said: "I've been blessed with this body — thanks for noticing."

One thing he and the rest of the team have not been blessed with, however, is good reviews. The Times's critic Kevin Maher gave the $300 million film two stars, describing it as a "meandering, frequently enervating yawn". Writing in the Daily Telegraph, Robbie Collin said that it was "painfully short on spark", and the Hollywood Reporter described it as looking "glaringly fake".

The film will be released in UK cinemas on June 30.



Harrison Ford and Phoebe Waller-Bridge star in Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny. It premiered in Cannes, as did The Zone of Interest with Cate Blanchett

News Free speech

'Students have to get used to

The vice-chancellor of Oxford is determined to present different perspectives, writes **Damian Whitworth**

A baseball cap on a side table in the corner of Irene Tracey's office bears the slogan: "Pain is good." It was a joke gift from a former student. The University of Oxford's vice-chancellor is a professor of anaesthetic neuroscience and an expert on how we perceive pain.

When Tracey took over in January one of the problems in her in-tray was how to deal with the contaminated Sackler name, which was attached both to the OxyContin opioid scandal and buildings in Oxford that had benefited from the family's donations.

Since then her "to do" list has grown, encompassing a bitter row over attempts to cancel Kathleen Stock, a dispute between the student union and the Oxford Union, a government request to advise on creating a new Silicon Valley and the small matter of how universities are going to avoid being overtaken by Chinese institutions.

This week she ticked the Sacklers off the list. When she arrived other museums and universities had already erased references to the family because of its ownership of Purdue Pharma, which manufactured OxyContin and had made an $8 billion settlement over the addictive painkiller's role in America's opioid crisis.

Oxford seemed to be moving more slowly and was found to have kept the family on donor guest lists until last year. Tracey made it a priority. "This is something that's close to my area of expertise, being a pain neuroscientist. We just got on with it," she says.

This week it was announced that the Sackler Library and galleries and staff posts at the Ashmolean Museum were being renamed.

Tracey is a woman in a hurry. She zips on a bicycle to our interview. A keen runner, she has also recently returned to rowing, forming a four with three college heads and a fresher as cox.

Right now the university is gripped by a row over an event due to be held this month featuring Stock, a philosopher who has gender-critical views.

The university's LGBTQ+ society said it was appalled by the decision to give a platform to a "transphobic" speaker and the junior common rooms at several colleges called on the invitation from the Oxford Union to be rescinded.

Will Tracey be going to listen to Stock? "I won't be, no. I'm not actually free that evening. I haven't been to the Union since I was an undergraduate."

She is adamant, though, that Stock must be heard. "Freedom of speech is what we stand for. She has a right to come and speak. It's as simple as that."

Last year Arif Ahmed, a Cambridge University philosophy professor, began holding training sessions on free speech. Would a short course on freedom of speech for Oxford freshers be worth considering? "Yes. It is not a bad idea," says Tracey. The situation at present is "ad hoc" and mostly involves teaching students to consider different perspectives in their subject areas.

"Our job is to help equip them because they're going to go into the workplace. You've got to get used to views that are going to be absolutely aligned with your own, and ones that you'll find distasteful." She believes that conflict over freedom of speech is "turbocharged" by social media. "Most students actually get it and are quite impassioned about the fact that people should have a range of views."

Scared to speak out on campus

A student told me she wanted to attend the Stock event but was worried about protesters. She added that students who quietly agreed that Stock should have a right to speak "are scared to express an opinion". I suggest to Tracey that this sounds a depressing state of affairs.

"It is a shame. It is a pity. She should go if she wants to go.

"We'll put all the appropriate measures in place to make sure that people can go there safely. I'm sure it'll be a very interesting evening."

On her regular dog walks with students, when they talk about anything they like, no one has said that they regard Stock as transphobic.

This month Oxford's student union voted to cut ties with the Union, accusing the debating society of a toxic culture of bullying and harassment. This week 40 academics, including Richard Dawkins, the evolutionary biologist, wrote a letter to The Daily Telegraph insisting that universities "must remain places where contentious views can be openly discussed".

Tracey, who is trying to act as a peacemaker, says that the dispute is not restricted to the specific issue of Stock's visit and the Union has not been banned from the Freshers' Fair, which might threaten its financial model.

The youngest of six children, Tracey grew up in Oxford. She is said to be the first Oxford vice-chancellor to have attended a comprehensive school, but says she does not know if this is true.

Access to students from all backgrounds is important to her. Some parents are attempting to game the system by educating their children privately until they are 16 and then sending them to state sixth forms to give them a better chance of a place at a top university.

Tracey says that after years of involvement in admissions at Oxford colleges she would not fall for a trick like that. It is also too simple, she suggests, to look only at whether a student is state or privately educated, because some poor students receive scholarships. "You will have a variance of socioeconomic backgrounds, whether in the private sector or public sector," she says.



Irene Tracey is insistent that a talk by Kathleen Stock will go ahead despite demands from the university's LGBTQ+ society

US rivals luring the best and brightest

Many private schools are shifting their focus to American universities because they do not think it is worth applying to Oxbridge. Might we end up losing the smartest students to the US?

"There's brainy kids everywhere. We don't have enough places here to take all the amazing brains that are out there, distributed across our school system. Our job is to get the best and the brightest. It's about making people feel that you will feel included here. It won't be alien or weird." Oxford and Cambridge retained their places in the top five of world university rankings released this week, but other British universities slipped as Chinese universities rose, boosted by increased funding. "There is an absolute clear link between that happening and the investment," Tracey says, adding that the UK university funding model is "perilous".

Universities generally are dependent on the higher fees paid by foreign students to subsidise undergraduate teaching and research, she says.

Raising tuition fees is not the answer.

Freedom of expression at universities should not be up for debate

John Maier
Comment

This week more than 40 Oxford academics signed a letter opposing attempts by several student-run bodies within the university to compel the Oxford Union to rescind a speaking invitation to the philosopher Kathleen Stock.

Professor Stock has achieved considerable notoriety by arguing that biological sex in humans is real and socially important, a view which until recent times would have been so unexceptional as to hardly merit asserting. Disagreements about the relevance of sex to social life have now achieved high political salience and become a frequent point of contention between the two major political parties in this country; it is entirely natural that an institution like the Oxford Union should devote an event to their discussion.

A commitment to free speech should be an uncontroversial norm at universities — one that transcends the more quotidian political divides that exist in the academy, as in society at large. Whether or not one shares Stock's views is independent of whether or not one should protect their free expression. And there is simply no plausible or attractive ideal of academic freedom, or free speech more generally, that would condemn her stated views as falling outside the bounds of permissible speech.

By contrast, Stock's opponents seem to believe that her views are so illicit they should not be presented to an audience of intelligent, consenting, adults at the major debating society at Oxford University. Attending to this line of argument more closely than its adherents are sometimes inclined to reveals quite how extreme an outcome it favours. If Stock cannot permissibly express her views under the relatively favourable conditions provided by the Union, it is doubtful she can do so anywhere — an outcome that amounts to their effective prohibition.

I suspect that few of Stock's more grounded critics would be comfortable explicitly owning such an obviously anti-liberal position. But it is no good paying lip service to rights to free expression in principle, while attempting to frustrate their use in practice. A right which it is not possible for its possessor to exercise is not a right worth the name. Progressives are sensitive to this important consideration in other political contexts, but some of them choose to forget it when the speech rights of their opponents are in question.

Norms of free expression ought to be part of the terms of engagement on which academic life is conducted. This is not motivated by the pursuit of controversy for its own sake. Rather it is justified by a concern that any obvious alternative to liberal practices leads too readily to the suppression of potential truths.

John Maier is a PhD student at Balliol College, Oxford, and authored the open letter supporting Kathleen Stock's right to express her views. He is also an occasional leader writer for The Times.

views they find distasteful'

ADRIAN SHERRATT FOR THE TIMES



that it is cancelled. "We'll make sure that people can go there safely," she says

The next government, whichever it is, should do something radical: "A cross-party review of the higher education system and how we are going to properly fund it."

Turning research into results

Tracey has been asked by the Treasury to lead a review of how the UK can better turn university research into commercial success. Oxford, which has created many "spin-out" companies, is central to the ambitious vision of Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor of the exchequer, of creating the next Silicon Valley. "We've got a great opportunity to do this at scale," Tracey says. She wants to include humanities and social science departments to create social enterprise companies and non-governmental organisations to complement more profit-driven enterprises. Trying to copy Silicon Valley "is a bit underwhelming for me. We want to have that scale of ambition around the money, but we should create something that is better suited to Britain."

Rejoining the EU's research funding programme, Horizon, is essential, says Tracey. "The attractiveness of coming here will be damaged if there is not the ability to access European funding."

Stephen A Schwarzman, founder of the private equity firm Blackstone, has donated £185 million towards a humanities centre that will include the university's institute for ethics in artificial intelligence. As a scientist Tracey is hugely excited about the potential of AI. "Often in the excitement of doing the science you unleash something and then you go back and think 'We haven't really thought about the ethics of this'. This is not an unfamiliar path, the difference is that the pace is much quicker than we've dealt with. Philosophers and ethicists need to come in. This is where we can help."

An investigation in The Times this week revealed the extent to which university students across the country used ketamine, a horse tranquilliser. The drug has been implicated in the death of 41 students. "This is a real challenge for the students and for the university sector. The lethality of the synthetic elements of some of these drugs is absolutely terrifying." She talks to the police and thinks there is more to be done to improve consistent messaging about drugs and how buying them connects them to criminal enterprises.

Tracey has a daughter, who is working, and one son who is finishing at university. She has experienced the turmoil of Covid and strikes by university staff. She is married to Myles Allen, a professor of geosystem science at the university and director of its net-zero initiative, and is a practising Catholic. "Faith is important to me." She continues to give lectures each year to "lead from the front". Stock's arrival in ten days time may test that leadership.

Gender critic has right to be heard, say academics

Ben Ellery

Reflecting on his time at Oxford, William Gladstone credited the university with inculcating "a reverence for what was ancient and free and great".

Nearly a century and a half on, Oxford University next week faces a test of its attitude towards free speech. Up to 1,000 protesters are preparing a campus picket in a dispute over the decision by the Oxford Union to invite Kathleen Stock, a feminist philosopher, to give a talk on gender.

The student union has severed ties with the 200-year-old debating society, provoking claims that it is trying to "no-platform" Stock and silence her views. A group of 44 Oxford dons wrote a letter to The Daily Telegraph this week in support of Stock's right to speak. The academics ranged from professors such as Richard Dawkins to younger lecturers who have recently graduated. Many believe the attacks on Stock are the latest example of students and administrators at Oxford bowing to activists who use social media to foment outrage.

Stock, 51, resigned her post as a professor at Sussex University in 2021 because of "bullying and harassment" over her views on gender. She believes that biological women are entitled to single-sex changing rooms and should not have to compete against trans women in sports.

The idea for the letter came from Julius Grower, a law fellow at St Hugh's College, who asked John Maier, 26, a PhD student and lecturer at Balliol, to draft it. They shared it with academics they believed would be sympathetic and it received endorsements from prominent dons such as Dawkins and Nigel Biggar.

Maier said some who initially signed the letter later decided to remove their names because they feared a backlash. "It is brave that people have been so willing to speak out publicly because this issue is always one that creates so much heat," he said. "I don't think the people protesting against Kathleen have actually read her work. If we allow groups of people to control what views are allowed to be heard then that is a completely intolerable state of affairs."

Roger Teichmann, a philosophy lecturer at St Hilda's College, put his name to the letter. "This is the latest example of sinister busybodies trying to encroach on free speech," he said. "These protesters are very ignorant and lack curiosity. Their desire for vilification is very strong — I think of it as sublimated bloodlust. I thought the Rhodes Must Fall campaign was just as ridiculous. There are many ethnic minorities who have degrees because of his scholarship.

"I am fortunate in that I have been here since 1997 so I don't mind speaking out but I know of another academic who would like to speak out but won't because he is on a temporary contract. That is what people who oppose Stock want — they want people cancelled. The language they use is Orwellian. They accuse her of hate speech. She does not hate trans people, it is ludicrous. She just wants single-sex changing rooms, single-sex rape centres. Women just want physical security and safety."

ADRIAN SHERRATT FOR THE TIMES



Dr Marie Daouda, above, Professor Jeff McMahan and John Maier all signed a letter supporting Kathleen Stock's right to have a platform at the Oxford Union

The university's student union voted this month to cut ties with the Oxford Union, with 78 per cent of those present voting in favour. It would prevent the debating society having a stall at the freshers' fair, causing a reduction in membership and its funding.

The society was founded in 1823 as an independent forum for unrestricted debate because of the university's restriction on certain issues, such as theology. Speakers have included OJ Simpson, after he was acquitted of murdering his wife, and Marine Le Pen, leader of the National Rally in France.

Previously the debating society has rescinded invitations to speakers after protests, such as John Tyndall, a fascist leader, in 1998 and Philip Nitschke, a euthanasia campaigner in 2009.

The student union said the vote to sever ties with the society had nothing to do with Stock's speech. However, Teichmann believes that was disingenuous and a way for the union to get around the new Higher Education Bill, which introduced penalties for universities that "no-platform" speakers. "After the union added that caveat, we asked the signatories if they still wanted to sign the letter. Three said no but then we had five more who wanted to add their names to it."



Jeff McMahan, a moral philosophy professor at Corpus Christi who also signed the letter, said the argument was reminiscent of the racism he witnessed growing up in South Carolina. He said: "Where I grew up was deeply entrenched with racism and that came about from people just doing what everyone else was doing in relation to their treatment of black people.

"This has parallels because people want to be seen to be doing what social media tells them is the right thing to do. I am about as left-wing as you get but I just cannot understand the contemporary left. I find it incredible that the people advocating to silence critical views are the left. I have spoken with Kathleen and she is nervous and scared about coming to Oxford. I will go to try and support her so she has a friendly face in the front row."

Another signatory, Marie Daouda, a French lecturer at Oriel, said: "I'm a Catholic from a Muslim country and by the standards of modern politics I shouldn't be on Kathleen's side. But I think we'd be in a very, very sad world if she cannot say what she thinks and if I cannot say what I think and if we don't get the chance to discuss what we can agree and disagree about."

Stock said: "I was lucky enough to go to Oxford from a comprehensive, and my encounters there with exigent and rigorous critical thinkers changed my life. I am very pleased to see that, despite facing some significant challenges, the tradition of free inquiry still lives and thrives there."

Following the letter from the academics, the student union reversed its decision to ban the debating society from the freshers' fair.

Professor Martin Williams, an Oxford pro-vice chancellor, said: "Whilst we understand there are concerns held by the student union about the Oxford Union, the university is actively encouraging the two organisations to talk." He added: "We do not allow the no-platforming of any lawful speech whilst also supporting the right of students, staff and societies to protest."

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Super-rich hit by turbulent times

Mario Ledwith

The boom time for Britain's super rich appears to be coming to an end after a fall in the number of billionaires for the first time since the 2008 financial crash

In a sign of turbulent times for the country's wealthiest, the number of individuals and families with at least ten-figure fortunes fell to 171 on this year's Sunday Times Rich List from 177 in 2022.



Sir Elton John is in the top 350. Sir Jim Ratcliffe is the highest climber this year

Well-known business figures, such as Sir Richard Branson and easyJet's founder Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, are among those whose fortunes were seriously dented over the past 12 months.

The 35th Rich List found that the total wealth shared by UK billionaires in the past year climbed by 4.5 per cent to £683.856 billion. The £30.734 billion increase amounts to a real terms cut against inflation, which was 10.1 per cent in the year to March.

Robert Watts, compiler of the Sunday Times Rich List, said: "This year's list shows a golden period for the super rich is over. For the first time in 14 years we've seen the number of UK billionaires fall. This is not a crash, but there are household names who have lost vast sums over the past year. The bursting of the tech bubble, the end of rock bottom interests and the jitters creeping through the banking industry have all taken their toll."

This year's list is topped by the Hinduja family for the fifth time, with the Indian dynasty's global empire now worth a record £35 billion. Among the biggest losers identified is Guillaume Pousaz, whose electronic payments website Checkout.com was valued at £29.6 billion in 2022.

The Swiss-born university dropout was fifth in last year's list after the deal put his 65 per cent stake at £19.5 billion, which is now worth less than £6 billion.

Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty have also seen their worth slide because of the tumbling share price of Infosys, the IT firm founded by her father Narayana Murthy.

Branson's fortune dropped by 42.6 per cent to £2.41 billion after shares in his satellite venture, Virgin Orbit, collapsed. The highest climber on the list is Sir Jim Ratcliffe, the owner of chemical firm Ineos, who is bidding to buy Manchester United and is second on the list with a fortune of £29.688 billion.

The list has been expanded to include Britain's 350 richest people or families, rather than 250, with a minimum £350 million fortune. The expanded list features the King, Sir Elton John and David and Victoria Beckham. New entrants include Sunder Genomal, with a £2.276 billion fortune built on holding licences to sell Speedo swimwear and Jockey underwear in India.

RICH LIST 2023

Find the full list online — and in tomorrow's edition of The Sunday Times

thetimes.co.uk/richlist

Billionaire breaks silence after rift

The head of Britain's richest family has laid the blame for a family dispute that resulted in multimillion-pound litigation across the world on "one or two kids who don't understand business" (Mario Ledwith and John Arlidge write).

Speaking for the first time about the rift in this year's Sunday Times Rich List, Gopichand Hinduja said some family members did not understand the value of family unity.

The extended family has spent recent years locked in a feud centring on the Hinduja Group's assets and how their ownership should pass to the next generation.

The dispute pitched Srichand P Hinduja, known as SP, and his daughters, Shanu and Vinoo, against Gopichand, and he and SP's brothers, Prakash and Ashok.

Srichand Hinduja, chairman of the global empire spanning industry, chemicals, oil, finance, IT and property, died in London on Wednesday, aged 87.

After rumbling through the High Court, the feud exploded into public view last year when the judge raised concerns about how Srichand Hinduja's care was being handled by the family. He was in hospital with dementia.

Mr Justice Hayden told the court of protection that Srichand Hinduja's needs had become "marginalised" as his health worsened.

Hayden threatened to order that he be moved into an NHS care home if the extended family failed to use its vast wealth to agree private accommodation and care. Although a truce was negotiated last year, promising to end the litigation, a British court was told last month that the haggling continued.

Hayden said: "It was presented as a treaty and the war was over. There was rejoicing. It's perhaps not astonishing that it's turned out to be something less than a treaty."

Gopichand Hinduja, 83, known as GP, now the oldest working member of the family, said he wanted there to be peace among the family. Asked what had fuelled the dispute, he said: "One or two kids who don't understand business and the strength of family unity create different thinking and problems."

In an interview to mark the family's top ranking on the Rich List for the fifth time, with a fortune of £35 billion, that took place before his brother's death, the businessman said the dispute was over.

"Look, there is no dispute between the brothers," he said. "I love my brothers. We four are one soul."

He added: "We have come to a conclusion and signed the term sheet for the settlement. It's all decided. The outcome is all good for them and for us." Pointing to evidence of the accord, Gopichand said he had been able to spend time with his sibling in his last months.

Led by Gopichand and Srichand, the Hinduja family began spending time in the UK from the 1970s, building the company into an empire spanning IT to Formula One and employing 250,000 people in 48 countries.

The legal dispute erupted in 2015 over the ownership of the Geneva-based Hinduja Bank, of which Srichand Hinduja's eldest daughter, Shanu, was chairwoman.

Gopichand Hinduja said his brother's sole ownership breached a letter from July 2014 signed by all the brothers, stating that "assets held in any single brother's name belong to all four". Srichand Hinduja in turn sought a declaration that the letter had no "legal effect". The belief in shared ownership stemmed from the brothers' father, Parmanand, who started the business in 1914.

During the hearings Gopichand Hinduja had challenged the legitimacy of a lasting power of attorney for property and affairs that his brother had given to Vinoo and Shanu.

After being signed in 2015, the pair had withdrawn millions from their father's assets, in part to fund the case.

GP argued that SP's dementia meant he lacked mental capacity to make the order. Shanu and Vinoo said their side of the family had to draw on SP's fortune because they had been deprived of cash from family trusts in recent years.

Shanu and Vinoo did not wish to comment.

HINDUJA GROUP



Srichand P Hinduja, the Hinduja chairman, seated, died this week. Standing left to right are his brothers Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok

Sunak and Murty's family fortune plunges by £500,000 a day

Robert Watts
Henry Zeffman Hiroshima

Rishi Sunak's rise to the top job in British politics has coincided with a colossal fall in the fortune he shares with his wife, Akshata Murty.

This year's Sunday Times Rich List reveals the couple's wealth has fallen by more than half a million pounds a day over the past 12 months. Their fortune is now estimated at £529 million.

The couple's most valuable asset has long been a shareholding in Infosys, an Indian IT giant set up by Murty's father. That shareholding was valued at £690 million when they made their debut on the Rich List in 2022. Since then Infosys shares have plummeted due to lower revenues from its banking, tech and other clients. Murty's 0.93 per cent holding was worth £481.2 million when this year's Rich List was compiled, down £208.8 million on last year.

The company's annual report suggests Murty received about £8.2 million in dividends over the past year, adding to at least £54 million in previous years.

At one point, a row over the tax on these payments threatened to snuff out Sunak's ambition of holding the highest office in the United Kingdom. In April 2022 it emerged that Murty had applied for and secured "non dom" status. This permits those who have their permanent home outside the UK to pay tax only on earnings in this country, for an annual charge of £30,000. Without non-dom status Murty would have been liable for £20.6 million of UK tax on those Infosys dividends. She later agreed to pay tax on her 2021 dividend.

Sunak published financial statements earlier this year that showed he earned just under £2 million in 2021-22, including his MP and ministerial salaries as well as returns from his investments and other unspecified "gains". He paid £432,493 of tax, according to information from his wealth adviser released by the government.

During his trip to Japan for the G7 meeting, Sunak insisted that he was "not bothered" by Labour attacks about his wealth and background.

Sir Keir Starmer told The Times this week that Sunak did not "understand the difficult decisions that families are having to make".

Asked about the comments on his background, Sunak said: "I haven't really actually focused on it or seen all of it. The bits at PMQs I probably hear but the rest of it I don't. These things generally don't worry me.

"I don't think most people sitting at home actually are much bothered about these things either. What they care about is what am I doing for them to make their lives better.

"I think we've moved beyond judging people by what's in their bank account. I think they're interested in whether I'm going to deliver for them and their families."

Sunak and Murty, who have two daughters, have a five-bedroom mews house in Kensington, west London, worth an estimated £7 million. In 2015 they spent £1.5 million on a Georgian manor house in Kirby Sigston, north Yorkshire, as a constituency home. They also own a £5.5 million penthouse in Santa Monica, California, bought straight from the developer in 2014.

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Story on Harry's girlfriend 'was obtained legitimately'

David Brown

An article revealing Prince Harry's relationship with Chelsy Davy was "obtained legitimately", a former *Daily Mirror* journalist told the High Court yesterday.

The Duke of Sussex is one of a number of high-profile figures suing the newspaper's publisher Mirror Group Newspapers over alleged unlawful information-gathering at its titles.

Anthony Harwood, former news editor of the *Daily Mirror*, told the court that a story headlined "Harry is a Chelsy fan" did not involve any unlawful means. Harwood was the US editor at the time of the article and had been asked to go to Argentina to cover Harry's holiday in November 2004.

He said that he had a front-page "splash" which reported details of the duke's "13-day bender" in Argentina, two days before the article about Davy.

The journalist said that the article, which is not alleged to have come from unlawful information-gathering, included the wife of a bar owner saying: "Harry's group was accompanied by a 'mystery blonde', but nothing more than that". Harwood said the *Mail on Sunday* later identified the girl as Davy, who was already back in South Africa.

Harry, 38, said in a separate claim against the publisher of the *Daily Mail* that he first became aware he was a victim of hacking when his brother "asked me whether I had received a voicemail that he had left for me on my mobile in which he pretended to be Chelsy".

The duke is one of four "representative" claimants whose cases have been selected for a trial. David Sherborne, representing Harry, suggested that phone numbers for famous individuals contained in Harwood's PalmPilot device — including the former footballer David Beckham — were used for hacking.

Harwood said that the list "was not a list of intended or actual victims of phone hacking, rather it was simply a digital record of my hard copy Filofax, which contained all my contacts".

The *Coronation Street* actor Michael Turner, the former soap star Nikki Sanderson and the comedian Paul Whitehouse's ex-wife Fiona Wightman are also named as "representative" cases.

Mirror Group Newspapers is contesting the claims over allegations its journalists were linked to voicemail interception, securing information through deception and hiring private investigators for unlawful activities.

Harry is due to give evidence next month.

Agency rejects request for car chase photos

Charlie Parker

A celebrity news agency that photographed the Duke and Duchess of Sussex during what the couple claim was a life-threatening car chase through New York has refused to hand over its images of the incident.

Backgrid, a California-based picture agency, said it had rejected a legal demand from Harry and Meghan's team to "immediately" provide material obtained by its paparazzi.

Americans long ago chose to ignore "royal prerogative", the group's lawyers wrote in a tongue-in-cheek response to a letter it said it received from the Sussexes on Thursday. The letter reportedly said: "We hereby demand that Backgrid immediately provide us with copies of all photos, videos, and/or films taken last night." Backgrid said it replied: "Perhaps you should sit down with your client and advise them that his English rules of royal prerogative to demand that the citizenry hand over their property to the Crown were rejected by this country long ago."

The Sussexes's office did not respond to a request for comment.

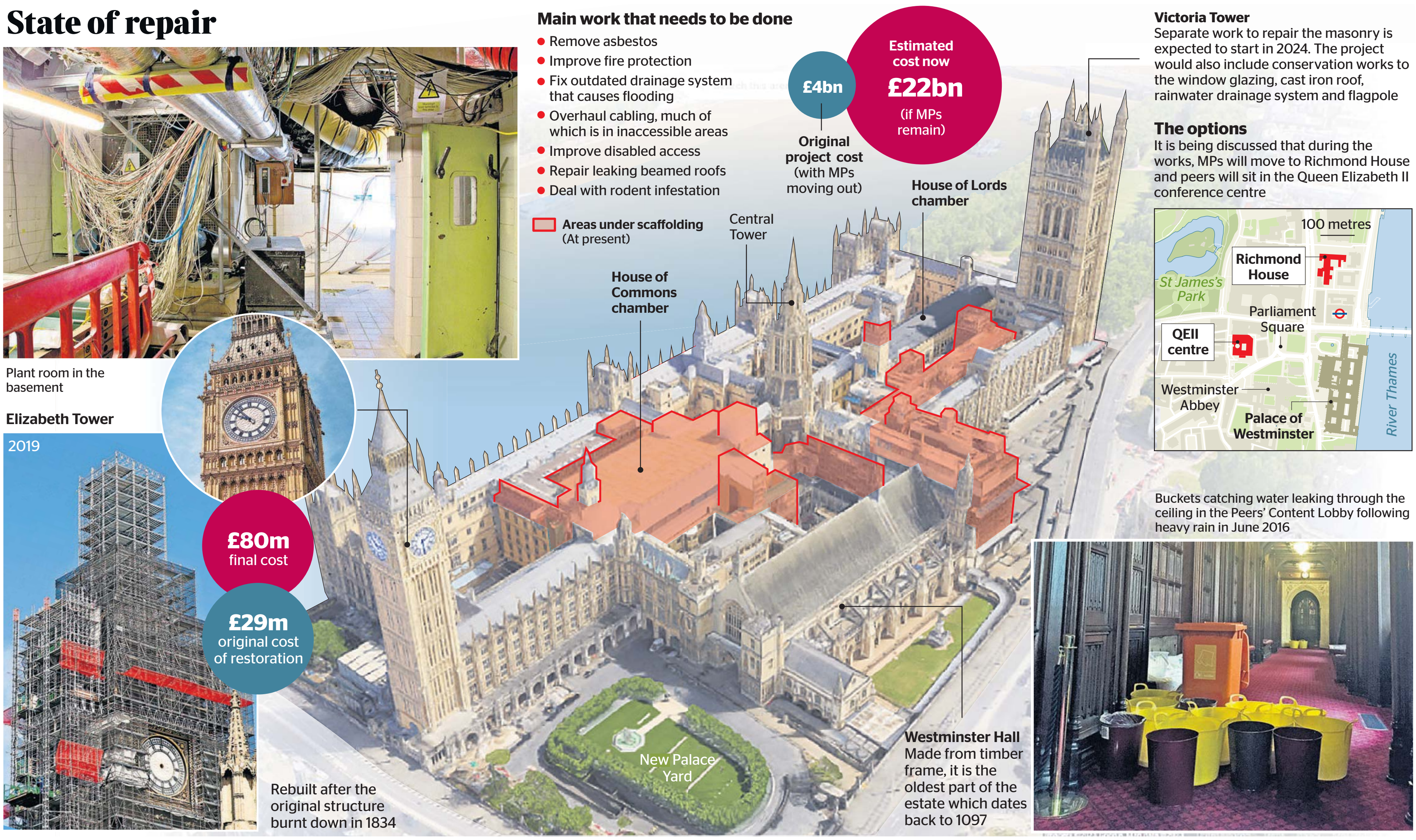
JOHN STRACHAN/MEDIADRUMIMAGES



On the fly A kestrel, with a wingspan of up to two feet, makes a successful grab with its talons for the tiny target of a mayfly in Bushy Park, southwest London



State of repair



Parliament in decay: MPs endure flooding, rats and broken toilets

Decades of dithering over costly repairs could be coming to an end but disputes remain, writes **Geraldine Scott**

When Queen Elizabeth died last year, visitors queued for hours to make their way through Westminster Hall to see the monarch lying in state and soak up the atmosphere.

Parliamentary cleaners were left soaking up something very different, as the antiquated plumbing which snakes around the Palace of Westminster buckled under the pressure, providing yet another example of the crumbling mess at the heart of Britain's democracy.

MPs have been debating how to fix the Unesco World Heritage site for decades. The Times can reveal that after five years of delay — and more than £300 million — plans agreed in 2018 and then rejected are now back on the table amid fears of a public inquiry.

MPs were warned this week that if they did not get on with deciding how to repair the parliamentary estate a "catastrophic" event would destroy the ancient building before work could even begin.

The warning has echoes of parliament's past. The present-day building came into being after the Great Fire of 1834, when the burning of two cartloads of wooden tally sticks set the medieval site alight. The only structure that survived was Westminster Hall.

The new gothic palace was mostly rebuilt by 1860 and politicians enjoyed 80 years of relative peace until, in 1941, the Commons chamber was destroyed on the last night of the Blitz. Sir Winston Churchill ordered it be rebuilt as it was.

It would be a further 20 years before the first working group was set up to offer advice on the large-scale restoration of parliament, resulting in a significant programme of works from 1981.

Since then, authorities have relied on a programme of patching-up.The list of jobs required to bring the building up to modern standards ranges from complex structural work to protecting wallpaper and reupholstering chairs.

Dame Meg Hillier, the Labour MP who chairs the Commons' public accounts committee, said: "My office is a microcosm. I've had a flood, I've had soot coming through the ceiling, there's been men working in the roof, the wallpaper's damaged, I had to take all the pictures down because it was at risk of damage." She is far from the only one. Dame Andrea Leadsom, the Conservative MP and former Commons leader, has spoken of finding rats rummaging through the bin in her office, while mousetraps line the walls of the estate's eateries.

Near misses with falling masonry, fires discovered by night wardens patrolling the grounds and reports that the palace is "riddled" with asbestos add to the issues.

Some workers are on decades-long watch lists because of asbestos and Nigel Evans, a deputy speaker, who chairs the new restoration and renewal programme board, told The Times: "The reality is, I think, that we will be possibly removing more asbestos from this building than any other building has had removed from it in the world."

Plug sockets buzz and spark and, although it can be bitterly cold in the winter, the use of plug-in heaters can overwhelm the electrics.

Last year, as MPs prepared to debate, water began pouring through the Commons ceiling.

Ben Bradshaw, the former Labour culture secretary, has endured urine seeping through from toilets above his office. And last year, as the Queen lay in state in Westminster Hall, the toilets became overwhelmed because so many MPs, peers and staff were on the site. "The estate was just full all the time and everything broke, all the toilets broke, it was revolting," a parliamentary source said.

Until now, the state of many of the systems — from the electrics to the plumbing — were simply an unknown. In the basement gas lines and water pipes are laid one on top of another, alongside electricity wires, broadcasting cables and other equipment. A lack of records means it cannot always be said with confidence which cables and pipes are live and which are unused.

"MPs must take their share of the blame, that we've just sat on it for 40 years and not done anything about it," said Hillier.

Multiple reports have recommended that a "full decant" — MPs and peers moving out completely while the work takes place — would be the most cost-effective and safest option.

Originally, it was estimated the work would cost £4 billion and that MPs and peers would need to move out completely — and initially they agreed.

In 2018 both Houses agreed to a plan in which MPs would move to nearby Richmond House on Whitehall, complete with replica green benches. Peers would sit in the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre across Parliament Square. However, there has since been disquiet. Jacob Rees-Mogg expressed fears that MPs would "never come back" and one Tory MP elected in 2019 said: "Some of us will only be here for one or two terms, we don't want to spend it all in the wilderness."

However, experts have suggested that it would be impossible to complete the work across the more than 1,100 rooms, 100 staircases and five kilometres of passageways without politicians leaving. The 2018 option, previously dismissed, is back on the table, The Times understands.

The most recent estimates say that the work would cost between £7 billion and £13 billion and take between 19 and 28 years. MPs and peers would need to move out for between 12 and 20 years.

If parliamentarians insist on staying, the cost would rise to between £11 billion and £22 billion and take between 46 and 76 years.

The Sponsor Body, the organisation given the task of coming up with options for the House, was abolished last year. The new Client Board is due to present new options this year.

Evans said: "We're keen on giving MPs a real choice, so that it's not just going to be a fait accompli, and even without mentioning figures the lowest figure may not be the best value."

Evans, who has been in parliament for 31 years, said that discussions would be held with ministers and that was at a "very sensitive stage as to where they would go". He added: "York is not it, by the way."

Two or three options will be put to MPs before Christmas. Evans said that "we're making great progress", having whittled down 36 options to fewer than 10. However, if there is still no clear path after a vote in November or December, next year's general election would then likely push the decision back further.

"At that point we have a massive strategic problem," a parliamentary source said. "And I wouldn't be surprised if it ended up at a public inquiry about all the money wasted."



The Commons chamber was rebuilt after the Blitz

Fassbender to play pioneering Times editor Evans

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The "dragon slaying" editor Sir Harold Evans, whose achievements included successfully campaigning for justice for those affected by the thalidomide scandal, is about to be immortalised on screen by Michael Fassbender.

The 46-year-old X-Men and *12 Years a Slave* actor is being lined up to star in a seven-part television adaptation about Evans, who ran The Sunday Times for 14 years from 1967.

It intends to shine a light on the pioneering work of Evans and the newspaper's Insight investigative team. It follows in the footsteps of *All The President's Men* — which starred Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as the Washington Post investigative journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who uncovered the Watergate scandal, and 2015's *Spotlight*, which covered the Boston Globe's exposé of sexual abuse within the local Catholic church.

Fassbender, who also played Steve Jobs in the 2015 biopic about the Apple founder, flew to America to meet Evans to discuss the show before his death aged 92 in September 2020. The project, which is in an early stage of development, is being produced by Fassbender's company DMC Film with Chapter One Pictures.

Evans's widow, Tina Brown, the former editor of Tatler, Vanity Fair and The New Yorker, said that her husband of 39 years would have wanted the accomplishments of his team to leave a legacy.

"It's very exciting to me that this brilliant creative team is working on a show that will bring to life the courageous, groundbreaking investigative work that Harry and the Sunday Times Insight team produced," she said.

"Harry would have loved the thought of inspiring a new generation of truth tellers and dragon slayers." Evans also became editor of The Times in 1981 and resigned a year later.

Patrick Spence, Chapter One executive producer, who is also behind ITV's forthcoming drama about the Post Office scandal, added: "We are looking at this as a love letter to great investigative journalism at a time when the pursuit of truth has never been more important." Evans, who was knighted in 2004, was the recipient of many industry honours including a lifetime achievement award from the UK Press Award committee and a European Gold Medal for his emboldening of the freedoms of the British press. He was also named one of 50 World Press Heroes by the International Press Institute.



Michael Fassbender met Sir Harold Evans to discuss the television biopic

His view that newspapers should further causes as well as report the news steered The Sunday Times to journalistic distinction and predominance in the 1970s. This was exemplified by the decade-long campaign to win compensation for the victims of the morning sickness drug thalidomide, which had inflicted birth deformities on thousands of babies.

His celebrated investigative reports also included exposing Kim Philby as a Soviet spy, breaking open what Evans called "a closed world whose stock in trade is deceit". The saga was recently dramatised in ITV's *A Spy Among Friends*. He was instrumental in exposing the corporate deception behind the DC-10 Paris air crash, which killed 346 people in 1974. The investigation ultimately led to the families receiving a $62 million settlement.

The Sunday Times helped to end the India-Pakistan war by publishing Anthony Mascarenhas's account of the Pakistani army's brutal massacre in its effort to suppress the Bangladeshi uprising, considered one of the most influential pieces of journalism to be written about south Asia.

TMS

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Tories keep a red flag flying

The Tories are concerned after watching their party go from trustworthy to Truss-worthy, and are overhauling their selection process. According to Politico, the party is looking to "clamp down on people who are known lunatics", which seems like a good start. "They don't want abject narcissists . . . of which there have been quite a few in the recent past," said a candidate who is naming no Johnsons. The character of applicants is now to be measured by asking them to agree or disagree with statements. One of these is "I'm always the first one to suggest a party", which has become something of a red flag for the Tories of late.

Narcissism in politics might be being fuelled by the advent of the government photographer. Andrew Parsons recently left that role in No 10 but tells Times Radio that politicians rarely noticed him. The only exception was reshuffle day, when Parsons would be the first thing a minister would see as they came to learn their fate. "Oh good," the minister would say upon seeing the camera. "I'm not being sacked."

GOWER PLAYS A CORKER
If the Ashes are to be secured, then we need to find out what Ben Stokes's favourite tipple is. "Personal pride and port: that's all the incentives you need," the former England captain David Gower, right, tells *Test Match Special*. He learnt this in 1985 when his sponsor offered a bottle of "prewar" port for each hundred he scored. Three centuries followed, the urn was regained and Gower's payment duly arrived. "It wasn't any old war we were talking about," he said. "He presented three bottles of pre-First World War port." Oddly for Gower, the bottles are still in his cellar. He approaches his port much as he did his batting, in that he rarely opens.

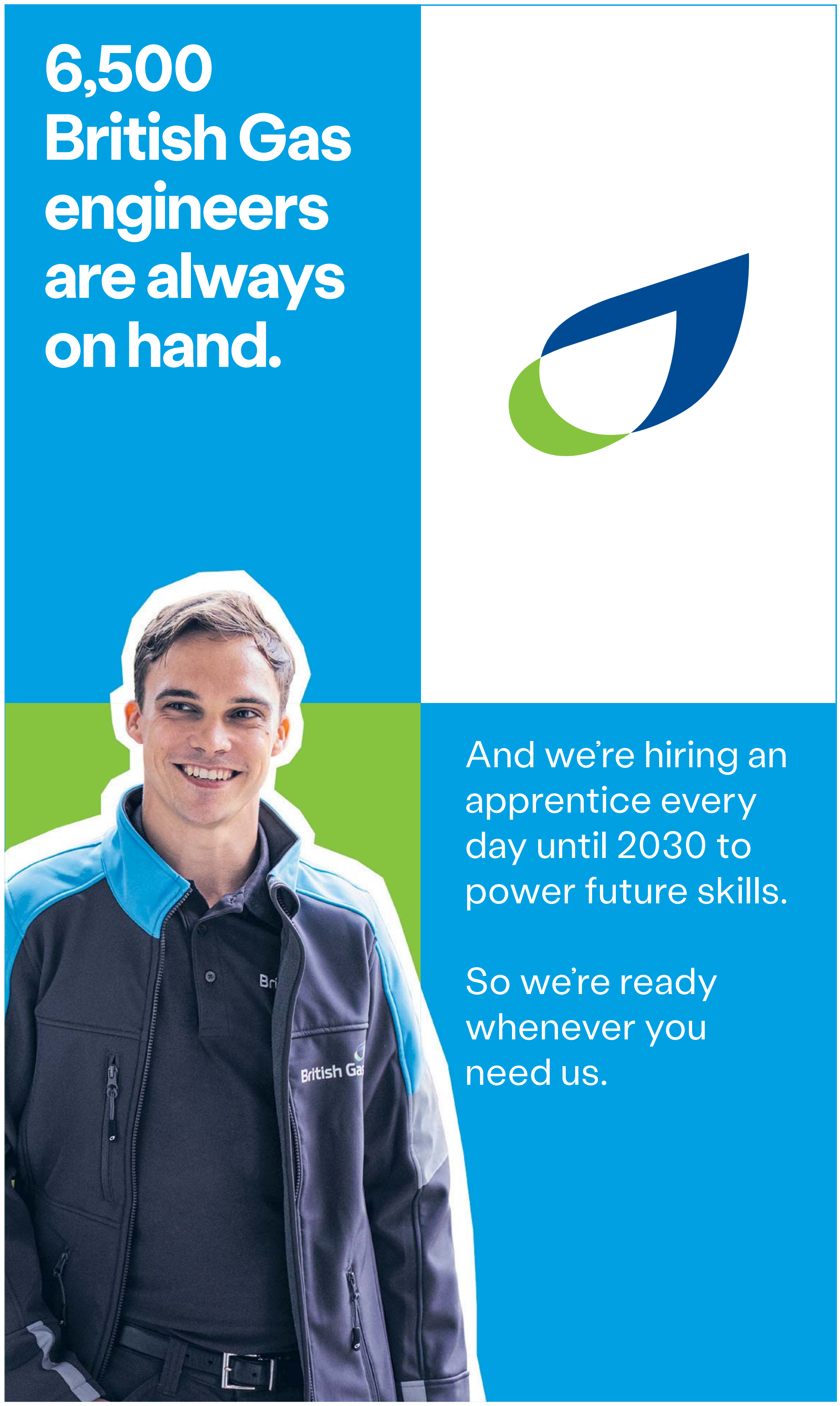


Speaking of restrained alcohol consumption, aghast responses to the news that Oxford boffins are advising us to drink seven units a week grew more horrified among those who didn't know that the suggested allowance is only double that. The comedian Simon Evans once looked into the history of recommended alcohol intake and found that the first guideline was to drink "no more than 56 units a week". He noted: "That was more of a challenge than a ceiling."

BROAD CHURCH
The historic London church colloquially known as St Mary's in the Strand is having a new lease of life. After a grant and two years of closure it now sits at the heart of a pedestrianised zone. At a National Lottery Heritage Fund lunch, the church's canon, Peter Babington, noted that it used to be an island between two roads, and was unloved by London's bus drivers and cabbies. "They used to call us St Mary's in the way," he said.

CARRIE ON PARENTING
Congratulations to Boris and Carrie Johnson, who are expecting their third child, which has always been the dream for Mrs Johnson. In last year's biography *First Lady*, her ex-boyfriend Oliver Haiste said: "She did once tell me what her three children were going to be called." It hasn't quite gone as designed, as neither Wilfred nor Romy were listed names. One suspects that, with a father as prolific as Boris, stopping at just the three children may be another best-laid plan of Carrie's that gangs aft agley.

JACK BLACKBURN



News

Bathing status can secure cleaner rivers

Clean it up
WATER CAMPAIGN

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Scores of Conservative MPs have called on the government to set a target for the creation of more designated bathing waters in rivers for swimmers, kayakers and paddleboarders.

Giving official bathing status would trigger monitoring of harmful bacteria including *E. coli* across the bathing season, which has just begun and runs until the end of September. Designation and data gleaned from testing should lead over time to pollution being cleaned up.

Yet there are only four inland bathing waters in England, including on a stretch of the River Wharfe in West Yorkshire and Wolvercote Mill Stream in Oxfordshire. The other two, at Rutland Water and the River Deben in Suffolk, were only designated last month.

The Times Clean it Up campaign has called for the creation of hundreds of bathing sites on rivers and lakes by the end of the decade.

The government is now facing pressure from its own MPs to set out a goal for expanding the swimming areas. More than 40 MPs have signed the Conservative Environment Network's river manifesto, which calls for a target on inland bathing water sites.

"Bathing water status is a valuable tool to improve rivers and beaches as it means water quality is consistently monitored to inform swimmers and expose pollution," Sally-Ann Hart, the MP for Hastings & Rye, said. "It can equally restore the public's faith in local rivers and beaches following water firms' failures."

Hastings has been cited by Labour as one of the parts of the UK where sewage spills are not just harming the environment but hurting the economy, with owners of cafés reporting that people have been put off by beaches that are closed by pollution.

There are more than 400 bathing water sites for beaches, which the water industry this week pointed to as a success because 97 per cent met bathing standards last year, up significantly from the 1990s.

As part of an apology by Water UK on Thursday for sewage spills, the industry body promised to help up to 100 communities to create more inland bathing waters.

Each water company will help campaigners looking to establish the areas by supporting them in drawing up plans, applying for legal protection and covering the cost of water testing.

"I am pleased they have committed to fund bids for bathing water status in up to 100 places, so pollution is monitored to ensure they are safe for people to enjoy," Philip Dunne, the MP for Ludlow, said.

"To deliver these sites, ministers should set an ambitious target for designating this status to more places along our rivers with an improved monitoring system to relieve pressure on the Environment Agency."

Campaigners including Surfers Against Sewage have complained that the government approval process for new bathing waters is too opaque. At least four applications were turned down by officials this year, including for other stretches of the Deben and the Wharfe.

Communities hoping to put forward applications for bathing status later this year include those on several locations along the River Dart and River Trent as well as the Manningtree Mermaids wild swimming group in Essex.

Water UK's pledge of an extra £10 billion investment this decade to tackle sewage spills has caused a fierce debate over who pays.

Feargal Sharkey, the leading water campaigner, said that the public would have to make a contribution but companies needed to be clearer about how much burden they would shoulder.

"It's a contemptuous way to treat your customers, after having made off with billions of their money, to your own profit, your own commercial gain," he said.

Today activists will show off the world's first surfboard made from raw sewage at a protest in Brighton. Made from recycled materials and nicknamed The Floater, it has two windows showing two litres of dirty sewage water inside.

MAUREEN MCLEAN/ALAMY; PETER TARRY FOR THE TIMES



Wild swimmers in Dorney Reach, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. Feargal Sharkey, below, says better water quality is a way off



Water firms still owe us a real apology

Feargal Sharkey
Comment

I don't think it is an apology at all. I think it was somebody trying to strategise: "We are going to treat our customers with even more contempt than we've ever done before."

We've paid and provided all the funding needed for the water companies to meet their legal obligations, to build, operate, maintain sewage systems for 30 years. They're now, even more contemptuously, suggesting they want to put up customers' bills by £10 billion to pay for their failure. It's their greed and incompetence that's created the situation.

It's £10 billion over seven years. That's £1.42 billion a year divided between nine main sewage companies. That's £158.7 million a year. Between April and September last year, Thames Water declared £493.5 million in profit. The sector managed to pay themselves £1.4 billion in dividends last year. So tell me again: is this an apology?

I've heard no apology for the desperate state these rivers are now in because of their actions over the past 30 years. And I see absolutely nothing that actually looks like a plan.

The government, Ofwat and the companies need to publish the strategy over the next five, ten, 15 years about exactly who's going to be doing what, who's going to be held accountable for it, who's going to deliver it, who's going to end up paying for it. This doesn't stop until it's fixed. And it's a long, long way from being fixed.



American bully dog mauls man to death in front of helpless neighbour

Seren Hughes, Laurence Sleator

A man has died after being attacked by an American bully XL dog he was thought to have been looking after.

Jonathan Hogg, said to be a father of five, was found with serious injuries after the police were called to a property in Leigh, near Wigan, on Thursday. He was taken to hospital but died in the early hours yesterday.

A 24-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of owning a dangerously out of control dog causing injury resulting in death. He remains in custody.

Armed officers used "every available tactic" to subdue the animal but due to the "significant risk" it posed to the public it was put down.

It is believed that the dog did not belong to Hogg, 37, who was reported by the Manchester Evening News to have been a father of five.

It was reported last night that Hogg had just had a baby with his partner, Liberty Farrimond, 24. "Now I've got to explain to our kids why their dad is gone," she told the Daily Mail.

"He was an amazing dad. He would have done anything for them. He was a stay-at-home dad and loved being around his kids. Now they've had that taken away by a dog. Our daughter turns two on Sunday, and he should be there. It's not fair."



Jonathan Hogg, 37, was a father and had a new baby

The American bully breed shares genes with banned American pitbull terriers. An XL type is determined by its adult height.

David Broxon, who owns a business next door to the property where Hogg was attacked, said the victim provided a dog-care service there.

"My lad Jordan was burning rubbish and the dog started barking at him," he said. "The dog minder came out and started petting it, just telling it to shush, and then he started play fighting with it — but it suddenly turned on him. The minder shouted 'help me' to my lad, who tried to stop what was happening by throwing stones at the dog but it had got out of hand by then.

"It just happened in minutes. Jordan and his Mrs rang emergency services and the police and ambulance turned up. My lad is traumatised, he saw it all. It's awful."

Four officers remained at the scene last night. A ripped-up football, a dog bowl and training bag were visible at the property, which appeared to house kennels.

Simon Hurst, a detective superintendent, offered his condolences to the victim's family and said that they were being supported by officers. He said: "We would like to reassure the public that we explored every possible avenue to protect the local community and the animal involved." He urged anyone with information to come forward.

Islamist admits plotting to kill Christian while she preached

David Brown

An Islamist extremist has admitted planning a terrorist attack on a Christian preacher at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park.

Edward Little, 21, also admitted seeking assistance from others to plan the assault on Hatun Tash, an evangelist, and gathering money to buy a firearm for £5,000.

Appearing at the Old Bailey via a video link from HMP Belmarsh in southeast London, he said that he had also intended to target any police or soldiers nearby.

Tash is director of the Defend Christ Critique Islam group. She was twice wrongly arrested for allegedly breaching the peace after complaining about threats from Islamic protesters.





Edward Little, right, planned to shoot Hatun Tash at Speakers' Corner

Little was arrested in September having taken a taxi from Brighton, where was living at the time, to London.

Duncan Penny KC, for the prosecution, said Little had in a message "expressed the desire to perform the killing at Hyde Park Corner with a firearm" and attack the military and police.

Peter Ratcliffe, for Little, said he had admitted the charge on the basis that he had only researched Tash as a target.

Little has a criminal record dating back to the age of 15, when he was convicted of a knife attack and dealing drugs, which led to a custodial sentence of three and a half years.

While taking the taxi to London for the planned attack he asked to stop at a mosque but said he would pray in the cab after being told there were no mosques en route.

When arrested, he was found to be carrying a rucksack with £5,000 in cash, a passport and two mobile phones. Police later found an encrypted conversation on one phone, setting out his plan to buy a gun and carry out the attack.

Little, who used the screen name "Abdullah", discussed religion, Iraq and "kafir" — non-believers — online.

He declined to answer questions during police interviews but his mood changed when he was shown a YouTube view of Tash. He launched himself from his chair across the table at an officer before being restrained.

Little had earlier admitted attacking a police officer for that assault and was jailed for just under nine months, reduced to eight months on appeal. The previous hearing was told that Little had an "absolutely shocking previous record" with convictions for 14 offences on seven occasions.

Tash, 40, regularly debates at Speakers' Corner, in central London, and has 700,000 YouTube followers. In July 2021 she was attacked by a man armed with a knife while she was wearing a T-shirt with a cartoon from Charlie Hebdo, the French magazine targeted by Islamist extremists in 2015. Video posted on YouTube showed a man in a hooded top approaching Tash and stabbing her several times.

Tash said after the attack: "In my early days, Speakers' Corner was a much calmer place. Now it is not and I am regularly attacked by a Muslim mob. We don't live in Pakistan, we don't live in Saudi Arabia. I am Christian and by default I believe that Muhammad is a false prophet. I should be allowed to say that in the UK."

The Metropolitan Police paid Tash £10,000 compensation last year after admitting she was wrongly arrested twice at Speakers' Corner in 2020 and 2021. Both times she told officers that she was being harassed and threatened by Islamic protesters.

Instead of protecting her, she said, the police arrested her for breaching the peace and other public order offences. On one occasion she was interviewed under caution and held in custody for 24 hours before being released.

The Met wrote to Tash apologising "for the distress that you have suffered", adding that "on these occasions the level of service did fall below the requisite standard".

Mr Justice Baker remanded Little in custody for sentencing on July 21.



ALAMY



Staff trust confident bosses — but Meryl Streep's Miranda Priestly, left, or even Ricky Gervais's David Brent may take it too far

The ideal boss is a bit of a narcissist

Sigmund Freud said more than 100 years ago that narcissistic types were especially inclined to taking on the role of leaders (Sophie Freeman writes).

And, according to a study, we like them that way. To a point, at least.

Researchers studied 640 supervisors in a range of organisations along with 1,259 of their staff and found that employees were most satisfied with bosses whose narcissism scores were slightly above the average. "Followers were most satisfied with leaders with a small dose of narcissism," the researchers said.

The co-author of the study, Andreas Wihler of Exeter University, said there are two types of narcissism: grandiose and vulnerable.

While both types feature self-centredness, grandiose narcissism is the "outgoing" version, while vulnerable narcissism is more "anxious and erratic", he said.

The study focused on grandiose narcissism because this tended to be more prevalent in bosses, he said. "While vulnerable narcissism can also motivate individuals to strive for leadership positions, this is even more the case for grandiose narcissism," said Wihler. "Thus, many narcissistic individuals in leadership positions show signs of grandiose narcissism."

For the study, published in the journal Personality and Individual Differences, the research team from the University of Bonn, Germany, and Exeter University assessed managers in many different sectors — including manufacturing, public services, media, academia and healthcare — using the narcissistic admiration and rivalry questionnaire.

The managers were each asked to rate, on a scale from one to six, how much they agreed with statements including "I am great", "I manage to be the centre of attention with my outstanding contributions" and "I show others how special I am".

Their employees were asked to rate their leaders on items such as "how satisfied are you personally with the leadership of your direct supervisor?"

The researchers found that employees were most satisfied with bosses when their scores on the narcissism scale were 2.49 compared with the average score of 2.36. "In general, small doses of narcissism make these people socially charming without the negative effects of the more destructive elements [antagonism, rivalry] of grandiose narcissism," Wihler said, adding that people tended to trust in these managers' capabilities.

With higher levels of narcissism, however, the negative, retaliatory aspects became more apparent, he said. "Too much narcissism then leads to overconfidence and arrogance, and over-competitiveness, which undermines the relationship followers need with their leaders in order to trust them. If their grandiosity is threatened, they devalue others, become hostile to maintain superiority and show contempt of others, which makes working with such people quite unpleasant."

MAX WILLCOCK/BNPS



Head of state Keziah Burt, a full-time sculptor since September, won Buckingham Palace's approval for her bust of the King

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Schools to warn children against vaping addiction

Lara Spirit

Schoolchildren will be warned by teachers that vaping is addictive and poses a potential risk to their health in an attempt to stem the rise in teenagers taking it up.

The government will issue teachers with briefing packs on the dangers of vaping in the coming weeks, with children to be warned about the addictiveness of nicotine and evidence that young people's developing brains may be more sensitive to its effects.

The Department of Health is also making new resources available for pupils aged between 11 and 13. These will include activities and short films to inform children about the risks of both nicotine and non-nicotine vapes. Teachers will be encouraged to engage students in discussions.

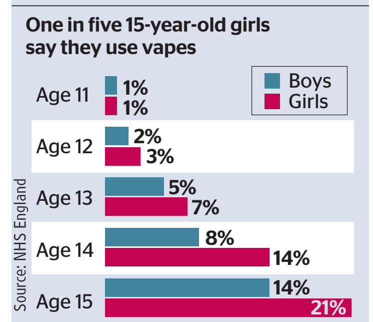
Vaping is illegal for children in the UK but NHS figures for 2021 showed that 9 per cent of children aged between 11 and 15 used e-cigarettes, up from 6 per cent in 2018.

Government sources privately concede that this figure is likely to be higher. Experts such as Dr Mike McKean, vice-president for policy at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, estimate that it could be as high as 15 per cent. A senior government source said: "The number of children vaping is likely to be higher than NHS figures suggest. The vast majority probably wouldn't otherwise be smoking but risk developing a nicotine addiction from vaping alone, so it's right that we're taking action."

Last month the government set out plans to eliminate smoking in Britain by 2030 and said that vapes could be a "powerful tool" to stop smoking. It established, though, that the growth of vaping among children was a new threat.

Neil O'Brien, a health minister, has referred to vaping as "a double-edged sword". He said: "On the one hand, we do not want children to develop an addiction to any substance at a young age," he told the Commons this month. "But on the other, it is substantially less harmful than smoking."

E-cigarettes by age



O'Brien announced £3 million of spending on new "illicit vape enforcement squads" to tackle illicit vapes and under-age sales. He has emphasised that the government will take a close look at the marketing of vapes to children "with bright colours, or low prices, or cartoon characters or child-friendly flavours".

A third of under-18s have been exposed to vape promotion online, the anti-smoking charity ASH said this week. Professor Sir Chris Whitty, chief medical officer for England, has described the marketing of vapes as "utterly unacceptable".

About 40 countries worldwide have banned vapes and the World Health Organisation has advised leaders to either regulate or ban the products.

Australia banned the importation of non-prescription vaping products entirely this month, citing their increased use among children. Figures from the United States showed that 14 per cent of high school children reported using e-cigarettes use despite regulation limiting the sale of flavours deemed more appealing to children.

GPs vote to be allowed to charge for patient services

Kat Lay Health Editor

GPs want to be able to charge patients for private services when they are not available on the NHS within a reasonable time.

A conference of GP leaders in London yesterday carried a motion calling for surgeries to be allowed to treat patients on their NHS lists privately "at their discretion".

The meeting of local medical committees informs the British Medical Association's negotiating stance on contracts between the NHS and GPs.

At present there are restrictions on GPs charging registered patients for most services, although there is an exception for travel vaccines that are not available free of charge.

The motion said: "GPs can be trusted to manage potential conflicts of interest arising from offering paid-for services to their NHS patients."

In remarks at the conference reported by the GPs' magazine Pulse, Dr Jessica Randall-Carrick, from Cambridgeshire, said: "Although it may be tempting to care for and be paid by the wealthy worried well, gratifying such desires for that extra money goes against our usual high moral standards.

"Those that have the least need of our services will demand it more, and those with the more disease, the more severe disease earlier in life, will be given whatever energy we have left over."

Dr Naomi Rankin, from Liverpool, said that allowing GPs to offer paid-for services was "encouraging a two-tier healthcare system".

Dr Stefan Kuetter, from Buckinghamshire, who proposed the motion, said the idea offered a solution to the lack of funding in the system, and that there was already a two-tier system.

In a separate debate on industrial action, Dr Kieran Sharrock, chairman of the GP committee in England, said the BMA had legal advice saying that GPs could take industrial action.

The union has said that it will consider balloting GPs if next year's contract negotiations are unsuccessful.

ALED LEWIS



Stepping stones Aled Lewis's shot of Snowdonia was a finalist in the Landscape Photographer of the Year 2022. This year's deadline for entries is May 31

Hard cheese for vegans as 'mylk' and 'sheese' face ban

Adam Vaughan

Makers of dairy alternatives will be banned under new guidance from using words such as "mylk", "sheese" and "b+tter" in their product names and marketing.

The government told companies this week that it would not stand in the way of trading standards officers publishing restrictions on the marketing of dairy alternatives.

Greenpeace said that the dairy industry had lobbied for years for the rules to be enforced, citing government and dairy sector documents.

Plant-based products now have a 7 per cent share of milk sales, and almost half of consumers drink at least one dairy alternative milk. A host of vegan milk, cheese, yoghurt and butter products use homophones, asterisked characters and other word play in their product names, such as Rebel Kitchen's oat, coconut and cashew-based "Mylk" and Alpro's "Not M*lk".

Under a "draft opinion" produced by a leading group of trading standards officers, however, even these nods to legally-protected dairy terms will be prohibited.

"The group considers that the use of such altered spelling is in fact using the reserved dairy names," says the document, which is not in the public domain but has been seen by The Times. "The group consider that it is not possible to circumvent the requirements through obvious misspellings, homophonic words or inserting non-alphabet symbols, when it is clear that the reference is to a reserved term."

The report by the Food Standards and Information Focus Group (FSIFG), a group of trading standards officers who advise the government, says that it "does not seek in any way to restrict innovation and new technologies". But the experts said their interpretation of the law was that phrases including "vegan cheese", "plant-based yoghurt" and "cheddar-type" should be banned.

Names such as "mozzarella alternative" would not be allowed, but language on packaging such as "use as an alternative to mozzarella" would be.

Manufacturers of dairy alternatives said the guidance was an unnecessary burden. "There is no evidence that consumers are confused about what they are buying when they shop for plant-based alternatives to dairy products," a spokesman for Alpro said. "If this guidance comes into force it would make it harder for consumers to enjoy new products from a UK growth industry."

Plant-based businesses have been waiting months to learn whether the government will intervene on the guidance. A senior official at the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs told them this week that it was a matter for the FSIFG.

The official wrote in an email seen by The Times: "I can confirm that responsibility for enforcement of the law on dairy labelling and marketing standards lies solely with local authorities and the trading standards officers [TSOs] acting on their behalf … draft opinion is a matter for lead TSOs to publish should they wish to do so."

The FSIFG may publish the opinion at any time through a website called Knowledge Hub, distributing it to trading standards officers across the country to use as guidance. Companies could then be hit by enforcement actions if they did not change their product names and marketing.

Documents obtained by Greenpeace's investigative unit, Unearthed, show that the trade body for the dairy industry, Dairy UK, was "tasked" by Defra six years ago to advise the FSIFG.

The minutes of a Dairy UK meeting in July 2017 said: "During the meeting, Defra had commented that alternatives should not use dairy terms, regardless of other wording indicating that the product is dairy-free." Dairy UK submitted a paper to the FSIFG on the issue in 2018.

Greenpeace said: "The dairy lobby is following in the footsteps of the oil majors by blocking and undermining solutions to the climate emergency to protect their bottom line. They are absolutely milking it and the government should reject these farcical new restrictions."

Dairy UK said: "We have not had any undue influence on this process, we simply expressed our opinion in favour of the FSIFG interpretation of existing law. The existing law is a reflection of the fact that dairy foods are unique in their nutrient richness and an essential part of a healthy and balanced diet and cannot be replaced by alternative imitations."

The FSIFG said the opinion was not final and that it hoped to consult plant-based companies.



Alternative spellings for milk could be outlawed

Analysis

The UK has one of the biggest plant-based markets in Europe. Nielsen, a market analyst, said plant-based food sales grew by 9 per cent between 2020 and 2022, to £964 million (Adam Vaughan writes).

Meat alternatives, such as "facon" and sausages based on pea protein from the American firm Beyond Meat, are the biggest category, with sales of £475 million. The second biggest group of products are milk alternatives, with sales worth £276 million. The most popular alternative milks are almond, then oat, coconut and soya, according to research by Ipsos.

Linus Pardoe, UK policy manager of the Good Food Institute, said a fall in milk sales and growth in plant-based alternatives from 2020 to 2022 could be explained by the latter being hit less by price rises.

The growing popularity of dairy milk alternatives is primarily due to health and nutrition, followed by environmental concerns, taste and dietary needs such as allergies, Ipsos found.

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Net migration is at a record high. How did it come to this?
Weekend essay
Pages 32-33

Comment

Johnson could be a good opposition leader

I might have to emigrate, but the sight of an indignation-puffed Starmer being badgered by Boris would be box office

Matthew Parris



It was all so obvious. "Staring us in the face," writes my successor as a Times Saturday columnist rather later in this century. "How wrong the late Matthew Parris was in March 2023 to suggest that for Boris Johnson the political wilderness beckoned and he might settle for this. Did Parris forget his own dictum that not until there was a stake through this vampire's heart could we be sure the beast would not be back?"

"And indeed," my successor continues, "by May 2023, as Mr Johnson awaited the verdict of the Commons privileges committee on his so-called 'partygate' misadventures, another piece of the jigsaw was put quietly into place. Only a few commentators noticed the significance.

"Johnson, who had by then made assiduous use of his spare time to amass a personal financial war chest, bought a Cotswolds mansion not far from his own former constituency, prosperous Tory Henley, for £3.8 million. The property boasted a moat on three sides, six reception rooms and five bathrooms, and was also close to the Tory Mid Bedfordshire constituency. Didn't anyone notice that in both constituencies, the current MP was standing down at the next election?

"The plan was taking shape. First, of course, Johnson had to face the imminent select committee verdict. Arguably, it suited him best to receive a punishment of ten days' (or more) suspension from the Commons. This would open the way for a petition in his then constituency of Uxbridge to trigger a by-election that, were he to stand, he would be likely to lose.

"Bad for him? Anything but. What contemporary commentary was overlooking was that getting shot of his distinctly unsafe Uxbridge seat was a vital first step for Johnson. He could choose between fighting the by-election and hopefully losing, or declaring that a swirling cloud of false accusation against him was poisoning the atmosphere and would prejudice his candidature — and that a different Tory parliamentary candidate would have a better chance. So he would step aside. Either way (he secretly calculated) the deck would be cleared for him to seek a safer seat.

"But what if the select committee administered only a rap on the knuckles? A suspension from the Commons of less than ten days was more problematic. He could declare himself exonerated but would be expected to fight the Uxbridge seat in the general election the following year. He'd already promised to, and been reselected. But when did an inconvenient promise ever stop Johnson?

> Take my word for it, he does not want it to end in the way it has

"In order to become editor of The Spectator he'd once promised not to stand for parliament. Then he did. He knew the Tory machine could block an MP from doing a 'chicken run' to a safer seat, but he was Boris Johnson. Surely the machine would stand aside — especially if he could find a constituency whose MP was planning to quit.

"Ah — Henley! Johnson had stood down there in 2008 to become mayor of London. Would the local Tories have him back? Nobody knew, but he remained wildly popular with many in the Tory grassroots and could count on the sheer excitement for a certain kind of Tory — well-represented in Henley-on-Thames — of having Boris as your MP. The Conservative majority there (14,053) had been sagging. Was he the man to revive it?

"But say he received no welcome there. He knew that just as close to his new mansion was the constituency of Mid Bedfordshire (majority 24,664) whose MP, Nadine Dorries, a Boris groupie, he had nominated for a life peerage and so would not be standing again…"

… And so the column continues towards its denouement, a denouement we here in 2023 cannot yet know.

But think about it. Before you start, take my word for this above all else. Boris Johnson does not want it to end in the way it appears to have done. Bitterly, bitterly does he regret this ending. Money he now has, oodles of it, but he is not very interested in money. For him, fame is the spur, fame the destination, fame the only thing he really wants and which he now sees leaching away as his life moves towards making expensive speeches to dreary people, flopping around on Caribbean sun-loungers, travelling the world and growing (as they said of the abdicating Edward VIII) "more and more tired and more and more tanned". He'll turn 60 next year. One last shot, surely?

It is likely if not certain that the Tories will lose the coming election; and (I'm guessing here) unlikely that Rishi Sunak would really relish years of opposition, even assuming his dysfunctional parliamentary party want this. So who? When the question "who comes to mind" yields the answer "Suella Braverman", we must be looking at a thin field. So instead, picture Boris as a needling shadow to prime minister Starmer.



Boris Johnson as MP for Henley, where he remains popular among some Tories

To my horror, I fear I can. I might have to stop reading the newspapers, listening to any political news. I might have to retreat permanently into a cave. I might have to emigrate. But I cannot deny that the sight of a floundering, finger-wagging, scolding, indignation-puffed Keir Starmer, being badgered by a relaxed, confident and funny Johnson, would be good box office.

Conventional wisdom has it that being leader of the opposition is a tedious and unrewarding business. Margaret Thatcher found it so but that was because she was trying to be serious and Jim Callaghan just laughed at her. Tony Blair swung his punches at John Major with gusto and with unkind effect. William Hague had fun getting under Blair's skin.

As opposition leader you really only have to be, not to do, which should suit Johnson just fine. Nobody's interested in your policies, and that should suit him too. It's more about moments, stunts,

> In opposition your job is just to stand there looking unimpressed

phrasemaking, enjoying your target's discomfort. Your job is just to stand there, looking unimpressed and mightily amused. Am I not writing a job description for a certain colourful impostor with whose japes you may be familiar?

I have no idea whether Johnson would in fact prove an effective leader of the opposition: he didn't shine as a shadow arts minister. Nor do I know whether Sunak (via the Tory party machine) would block him from seeking selection as a candidate. And until any of this happens he will continue to deny — as his spokesman does — that he has any plans to ditch Uxbridge. But of this I'm certain: Johnson, along with many Tory activists, will be devastated if his story ends in any other way than with his triumphant return. I think he'll try.

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Helen Rumbelow Notebook

Blooding our young at the office photocopier

When Prince Harry shot his first stag, the face of the royal 15-year-old was shoved into the animal's gory belly. "Blooding" is the aristo rite of passage to prepare their young for an adulthood of senseless leisure.

The equivalent ritual for the rest of us is work experience, where we shove our young people's faces in the guts of office life. "Look!" we used to say, pushing the reluctant 15-year-old towards the photocopier. "Work is going to be bloody boring."

Now this ritual is near extinct. Our school, like almost every other in the country, still asks us to arrange work experience. But workplaces are no longer so welcoming to the pallid kid wearing his dad's belt. The photocopying and filing have disappeared — and don't think about asking your mate if little Johnny could "sit in on your meeting", you nepotistic nightmare! There's a paid internship programme; come back when you're 21.

I agree with most of this. I once found myself at a gala auction at The Dorchester in London, where bloaters drunk on champagne bid thousands of pounds for their kid to do a week at some glamorous City firm. Yeah, it was sickening, but it also missed the point.



The 15-year-old's "work experience" is meant to come as a horrible shock. Watching adults get Excel faceburn is designed to make teens very afraid. "My life will be different!" the teen vows, and that's how the human race innovates. This summer, my child's work experience may well be sitting at home watching me WFH. Which serves the same purpose, after all.

Whine and dine

There's a booming international restaurant chain called Karen's Diner. It's easy to see why it has been missed by critics: the gimmick is that you are humiliated by staff. Teens love it, turning it into a viral sensation, with 1.5 billion TikTok views of their waitresses' put-downs.

As soon as we arrived at the London branch the waiter was haranguing my partner for being a "c***" to have a folding bike. This I fully supported. But then he asked if there were any vegans in our group, and I said yes. The waiter turned off the music and went on the PA system, forcing every customer to stop eating, turn their middle finger to me, and chant: "F*** off, you stupid f***ing vegan." I guess I deserved it, too.

After a meal of the worst service imaginable, abusing every one of my fashion and life choices, I have two questions. When can I start work there? And what strings do I need to pull to send Giles Coren to review it?

Have a kir, Keir

There is a powerful but overlooked trend in British voting behaviour: towards the candidate who seems to enjoy a bevvy. Functional alcoholism is part of our social psyche and very important to the expansive charisma of a leader. The old political wisdom has it that prime ministers are either "bookies or bishops". I'd add that you can be either as long as you seem like a boozer. Boris Johnson, of course, overdid it by never appearing sober, but even very different types like Thatcher, Cameron and Blair signalled their love of the sauce. Sunak doesn't drink and Starmer (whatever the truth of his beers in lockdown) gives the aura of someone similarly controlled. It's the short answer to why they both lack fizz.

Chore enforcement

A lot of talk this week about how mothers forced to shoulder an unfair parenting load are then reluctant to have more kids, leading to falling birthrates. Have we forgotten we *need* falling birthrates? This is a great new excuse for inadequate dads: "I don't want to be so rubbish at sharing chores, darling, it's just to save the planet!"

Ann Treneman is away

We need Wine Woman — I'd drink to that

Bores and bad-breathed blowhards, all of them men, have turned a pleasant drink into a dull but monstrous scam

Giles Coren



I would not normally raise the subject of wine before breakfast (or just after tea if you read this online on Friday afternoon), but two important stories in the papers this week mean that I have no choice.

In The Times, the big news was that "women are taking over the world of wine". Sotheby's has "seen a surge in the number of women bidding at fine wine auctions", while Berry Bros says the number of women joining its wine collector "cellar plan" is growing faster than the number of men. Women are taking over as sommeliers, buyers and pundits all across the country — it's a revolution! Meanwhile, in the Daily Mail we learnt that Sir Keir Starmer has a secret plan to ban wine for white people and use the money saved to fund a massive increase in immigration. Not really. The Mail's story is about how you *can* drink red wine with fish after all, because most wines go with most foods and the notion of pairing particular wines with certain dishes is, scientifically, total nonsense.

So, to treat these two tales of trouble among the oenophiles in turn (be careful how you type that word in the online comments or you'll get moderated to hell and back): if women are taking over as the world's wine experts, all I can says is: hurrah! It's about bloody time. Over the last 200 or so years, men have contrived to take a perfectly nice drink and turn it into the most boring thing in the world. Male wine bores are the bane of my life in all their many manifestations, and if a new breed of bibulous birds brandishing broad-bowled burgundy balloons (Christ, I'm even writing like a wine bore now) is on course to wipe them from the face of the earth, then I'm all for it.

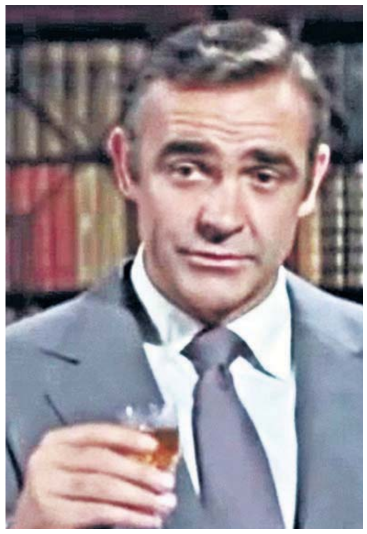
I certainly won't miss the standard-issue face of the male wine bore: massive, purple, hung with jowls like Regency curtain swags, indigo teeth, rogue white nostril hairs catching the sunlight as they throw their heads back to gargle this presumptuous little Riesling from Botswana …

Or the dandruff on the shoulders of their maroon blazer, the port stains on the pink shirt where the distended belly strains at the buttons, the spittle-crusted silk hanky in the top pocket.

Or the jungle breath on the bastards, sour like dustbin vans in the morning, the reek of their indigestion, the rotting flecks of ham and cheese entombed in yellow molars from all the fatty nibbles needed to offset the tannins in the cabernet franc, the sharp gust of slums when they laugh, suddenly, in your face, about that time when the sommelier at Garfunkel's thought white rioja was made from pinot gris.

> Wine fancying is no sexier, or more useful, than trainspotting

And most of all, the opinions. The endless bloody opinions. I just can't imagine a female wine enthusiast telling me over lunch how much better her cellar is than this overpriced wine list for poseurs, which is why she won't go to restaurants unless someone else (in this case, me) is paying. Or what she paid for her Léoville Barton en primeur because she alone knew that the 2004 would end up drinking better than everyone thought. Or how much she could get for it now.



James Bond, a wine mansplainer, would not be much fun on a date at Nando's

Or how, if I think I know about wine, I really ought to see the cellar at her club. They've got every vintage of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti bottled since the war, bar the '45 itself of course, for less than you'll pay for Chilean gnat's piss at one of these so-called gastropubs. Then taking me to their naphtha-reeking shithole full of dead people and ordering just a half bottle of the house red because "it's actually very good value".

A woman, however boring she is, won't call rosé "lady petrol", or prosecco "fanny batter", or a lightish Oregon pinot noir a "good driving wine" or young beaujolais "an excellent breakfast bottle". She won't sniff it and tell you the exact grape percentages by scent alone, unless you ask her to, or complain that decent people can no longer afford the great clarets her mother used to drink because the Chinese are stockpiling them all to mix with Coca-Cola. Nor will she cite with approval, I wouldn't have thought, the various wine-tasting achievements of the serial abuser, racist and colonial murderer James Bond, the very epitome of the ocean-going wine wanker — as, for example, when he sips a sherry in *Diamonds Are Forever* and says: "An unusually fine Solera … '51, I believe". And M says: "There is no year for sherry, 007." And Bond replies: "I was referring to the original vintage on which the sherry is based, Sir. 1851. Unmistakable."

A man who can't knock back a slug of Croft Original without mansplaining it to the head of MI6 is not going to be much fun on a date in Nando's. Because wine knowledge at that level is not arrived at by being a charming, relaxed renaissance man; it is arrived at, like all deep knowledge, by devoting your dreary nerd life to it. By endless lessons, reading, memorising, testing and ghastly suburban tastings. Wine fancying is no sexier, in itself, than trainspotting and Bond's dreary brag about the sherry is only as interesting as if he'd said: "I'm pretty sure I saw a white Electrostar, almost certainly a 357203, being hauled out of East Ham Depot by a GBRf 66 this morning, Sir."

And no more useful either, according to the Daily Mail story I mentioned, which follows up a report by Professor Charles Spence of Oxford University in the journal Nature Food, which asserts that wine-pairing with meals is "just storytelling" and that "specific food and drink products are paired for no other reason … than the whimsy of the person who happens to be recommending the match". And to rip your hard-earned money from your pocket, I might add.

I could have told you this 25 years ago. And, frankly, did. And have been ever since. Oh, the abomination that is a "wine flight" tacked on to your vomitous £130 tasting menu for another £90, so that each piddling smear of fancy-pants cheffery can be "complemented" by the perfect thimbleful of overpriced grape spume, as if any one mouthful of wine were different from another, when it isn't. It all basically tastes the same. It all gets you where you want to go, and it all comes out the same hole. It's just posh falling-down water, is what it is. And the ladies are welcome to it.

Now, if you want to talk about a real man's drink, let me tell you about whisky. I'm a peat man, me. It's got to be Islay or nothing, and no one but a fool buys it except in the cask. And as for this so-called Japanese whisky, did I ever tell you about the time …

Melissa Harrison Nature Notebook

Perhaps not a polecat … but it wasn't poles apart

People should know better than to mention things in passing to me, such as the fact that they think they've passed a dead polecat on the road on the way to a pub lunch. It was the work of a moment to persuade the bar staff to part with a bin bag and then we were driving through heavy rain, peering out at the country lane ahead. The roadkill in question was on a bend and it took a couple of passes before it was safe to retrieve it, but before long I was in the passenger seat with a wet corpse wrapped in black plastic between my feet.



Until relatively recently polecats were found across mainland Britain but, driven in large part by persecution on sporting estates, their numbers collapsed — until only a few populations were known of, mainly in Wales. But they have been quietly making something of a comeback, including in Suffolk, so I was keen to confirm if this really was one.

Polecats can breed with escaped ferrets and produce fertile young; hybrids are also created deliberately, as they're thought to have keener vision and be better hunters of rabbits, although they're also harder to tame and more likely to escape. All this means that the wild-living population of these mustelids is genetically complex, and often the only way to firmly identify one is via its DNA. But when I inspected the body, its paler fur colour didn't look right for a polecat, the "bandit" facial mask wasn't fully pronounced and, at a whopping 68cm from pink nose to bushy tail-tip, it was extremely large.

I was disappointed to conclude that it was very likely a polecat-ferret, but given that the former was a relatively recent ancestor of the latter, I wonder how much it really matters. While introduced mustelids like mink have caused havoc in Britain, we have an ecological niche for polecats, and probably hybrids. Certainly there is no shortage of rabbits (or their other favourite meal, rats) around here.

A most welcome call

Few things I know can rival hearing a cuckoo for pure, unadulterated joy. The first swift of the year, maybe — and a nightingale, if I'm not expecting to hear one and haven't made a special trip. But the cuckoo's two lazy, resonant, summer-sounding notes have in them the power to utterly erase whatever worries I've been brooding about, replacing them instantly with a childlike, lasting happiness.

Partly, of course, that joy is down to their scarcity: numbers returning to the UK have fallen by 34 per cent since 1995 — most steeply in the southeast — and we now play host to only about 18,000 pairs, making each bird very special. Add to that the fact that they're here so briefly: with no need to bring up their own young, they depart very quickly after breeding, with many adult birds gone by the end of June. That means the window of opportunity for hearing a cuckoo is very brief, even if you're in a part of the country that can still support these uniquely fascinating birds. And that's the part, I think, that makes hearing one so special.



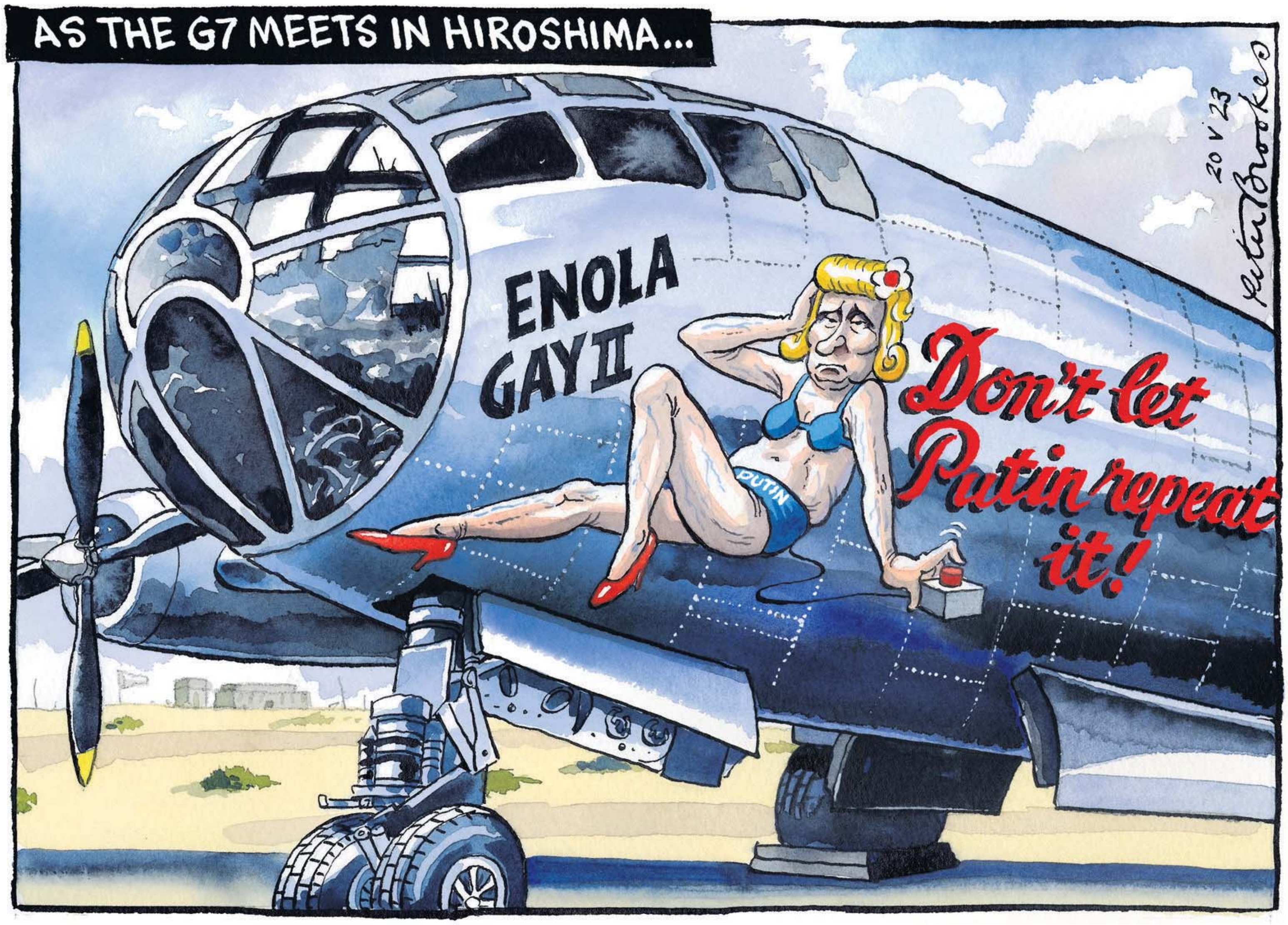
Hearing a cuckoo is an evocative experience. Left, a polecat-ferret

Because of their very particular requirements — lots of tangly, bushy habitat for smaller birds and all the things they need to eat, plus good stocks of hairy moth caterpillars (and thus their food plants) for the adult cuckoos — cuckoos are a good indicator of a healthy landscape: if a place can still support a pair, things are going well (and conversely, if they're absent from somewhere they used to be, something has gone badly awry). The joy of hearing one, then, comes partly from the feeling that perhaps, at least in this one spot, all has not yet been lost. And while the arable fields around my home support little, and the copses are overgrazed by deer, we have the lush, green watermeadows and (thankfully) enough people in the village who know better than to strim, mow and prune every hedge and shrub to make it all look neat.

I heard my first this year at lunchtime on May 5. I'd been away for over a week and was keen to see what had changed in the village in my absence: at this time of year there's such a mad, dizzying uprush that blossom opens, trees come into leaf and new wildflowers bloom from one day to the next. I hate to miss a moment of it. My friend, her dog and I had settled under a riverside oak, we to eat our sandwiches, the dog to hopefully spectate, and although we were chatting and the first notes were distant, it felt as though part of my brain had been waiting, reserved for just this simple music. I heard it instantly — we both did — and paused, smiling, breath held. A sunlit silence, then another, and then the cuckoo called its name again.

The Stubborn Light of Things: A Nature Diary is out in paperback now.

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First obesity was monetised, now the cure is too

As well as corrupting our appetites, corporations have cynically messed with our ability to soothe and heal ourselves

Janice Turner



@VICTORIAPECKHAM

I once met a tech entrepreneur who had made his first fortune in online children's games — the sort where zany new features pop up daily, so parents end up prising devices from hot, sticky hands. He had moved into the kids' mindfulness market, with a book and app extolling fresh air and screen breaks. Having made a killing from frazzling young attention spans, he was now flogging them calm.

A parable, I thought, for how capitalism monetises human weaknesses and desires with no regard for potential harms and then, when the problem it creates is big and lucrative enough, flogs us the supposed solution too.

A symposium in Ireland this week heard that a semaglutide drug such as Ozempic had enabled clinically obese children to achieve significant weight loss. After 68 weeks, almost 45 per cent of patients aged 12 to 18 were no longer defined as obese, while three quarters had lowered their BMI. Herein lies both our tragedy and our future. We can rage against ultra-processed foods where flavourings that promise our bodies protein are added to potato starch, so we are programmed to stuff Pringles into our faces until we're sick. But who has the courage or authority to ban them, along with every sugary drink or two-for-one doughnut deal? Such food is ultra-delicious, affordable and, above all, obscenely profitable: we can't uninvent it.

So here we are with a fifth of 11-year-olds obese and 806 pre-school children hospitalised in 2021-22 because of their weight. Few are middle class. In my own circle I saw no kid with more than puppy fat. Child obesity is a disease of the poor, with parents who haven't the time or inclination to cook; who don't preach

> In the future may lie cancer or pancreatic issues, but who cares?

brisk walks instead of TV; who, unable to afford expensive treats like holidays, buy ice cream instead. Do we remove these children from mainly loving, stable homes to state-run fat camps, or let them develop type 2 diabetes, or prescribe drugs whose long-term safety for growing bodies is unknown but might, albeit temporarily, slim them into health?

Because it is bitterly hard to lose weight in our obesogenic society, even if you are rich. It's a game of snakes and ladders, where you climb steadily through the day on soup and salad then succumb to a Kit Kat and slither down. In reducing our appetite, Ozempic makes us strong. A friend on the drug who has lost 6kg says: "It means I'm not constantly fighting myself."

At present, the NHS prescribes it only for type 2 diabetes or morbid obesity but people are scouring unregulated online pharmacies. Every chiselled and sleek celeb has an Ozempic injection pen. In the future may lie cancers, pancreatic problems or piling it all back on. But right now, who cares? You've finally lost your baby weight.

The self-righteous thin will recite their mantra that fat people should "eat less and move more" — but they won't. Meanwhile, there's a direct correlation between our size and what it costs the NHS to look after us: an average of £638 a year for a person of healthy weight and £1,375 if you're morbidly obese, according to a 2019 survey. Since only a third of us fit the first category, it's basic maths. There will be mass prescribing of Ozempic as soon as production is scaled up. The global semaglutide market is £2 billion this year but will reach £45 billion by 2030. Buy shares now.

The modern world has not just corrupted our appetites but our ability to soothe ourselves or focus on a task. Around 2013, when one in five US high-school boys was diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), I met one who'd jump out of windows during lessons and barely slept. He was prescribed the stimulant Ritalin. Yet this child was allowed limitless sugary, caffeinated Coke and was still on his laptop at bedtime. Why weren't such overstimulating habits addressed first? Because it would mean rows,

> They push us away from what makes humans function best

perhaps, while challenging how schools fail to give boys an outlet for their testosterone-fuelled energy would be futile. Easier to pop a pill.

Now we are told there is an epidemic of adult ADHD, with online clinics leaping to prescribe drugs, as a BBC *Panorama* journalist found, after cursory online diagnosis. Reading a list of symptoms, I'm sure I have it too. But I'm reminded of the distinguished psychiatrist Dr David Bell explaining that with mental (not physical) medicine "the existence of a treatment creates the illness". A centre for pneumonia "wouldn't mean more pneumonia "but with 'false memory syndrome', in the 1990s, suddenly you had lots of cases", Bell wrote. "It was the same when Freud wrote about hysteria."

He was referring to gender dysphoria in teenage girls, where there has been another sudden spike as doctors rush to diagnose and medicate. (An average transition costs about £120,000, plus drugs for life. Buy shares here, too.) But ADHD is the same: a small cohort of genuine (and under-treated) sufferers plus a mass of people who want to ascribe their inchoate distress to something, anything, beyond their own personality and lifestyle. They could leave social media, stop posting selfies and their every goddamn thought. But binning your phone is as hard as giving up junk food. Besides, adult ADHD is now the elite diagnosis — anxiety is so five years ago — and counts as an identity to offset other perceived privileges. (The ADHD drug market is worth £24 billion and growing.)

It's difficult to resist corporations that mess with our metabolism and pathologise our feelings for profit, that push us away from what makes humans function best — talking to friends, fresh food, exercise, an early night — because these things can't be monetised. It is a battle to be master of yourself.

The flesh is weak. It always was. But we must understand, at least, when we're being played.

Letters to the Editor

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letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

AI for schools

Sir, As leaders in state and independent schools we regard AI as the greatest threat but also potentially the greatest benefit to our students, staff and schools. Schools are bewildered by the very fast rate of change in AI and seek secure guidance on the best way forward, but whose advice can we trust? We have no confidence that the large digital companies will be capable of regulating themselves in the interests of students, staff and schools and in the past the government has not shown itself capable or willing to do so. We are pleased, however, that it is now grasping the nettle ("Sunak: Rules to curb AI threats will keep pace with technology", May 19) and we are eager to work with it.

AI is moving far too quickly for the government or parliament alone to provide the real-time advice schools need. We are thus announcing today our own cross-sector body composed of leading teachers in our schools, guided by a panel of independent digital and AI experts, to advise schools on which AI developments are likely to be beneficial and which damaging. We believe this initiative will ensure that we can maximise the vast benefits of AI across education, while minimising the very real and present hazards and dangers.

Sir Anthony Seldon, head, Epsom College; **Helen Pike**, master, Magdalen College School; **James Dahl**, master, Wellington College; **Lucy Elphinstone**, headmistress, Francis Holland School; **Geoff Barton**, general secretary, Association of School and College Leaders; *three more signatories at thetimes.co.uk/letters*

Peers in politics

Sir, An underlying problem is the conflation of honours with membership of the upper chamber of parliament (letters, May 18 & 19). Honours recognise distinguished past performance. Appointment to the upper chamber is about future performance. The ermine of peerage cloaks this difference and creates the impression that a peerage is the apex of the honours system.

In the past there was a good reason to introduce life peerages to evolve membership of the House of Lords away from a hereditary basis. That time has passed. Consideration should be given to whether the flummery of peerage has become malign and whether appointment to the upper chamber would be better rid of titles.

AC de Winton
London SW10

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Green-belt building and affordable homes

Sir, Emma Duncan's column ("Build on the green belt — but do it wisely", May 19) was a joy to read. At last we begin an honest, more nuanced debate about this holy grail. She's right: building close to railway stations in the green belt is everything building should be and one of the recommendations in a Lords report from the built environment committee, of which I am a member. It is simply a fact that not all green belt is of the same quality nor is every piece of green land able to contribute positively to much-needed environmental outcomes. Polarising the debate doesn't get homes built nor the environment protected but arguably damages both.

Baroness Thornhill
Liberal Democrat housing spokeswoman; House of Lords

Sir, Emma Duncan suggests that releasing land near railway stations could allow a building boom. Planning permission for developers must be eased, but that does nothing to address the problems of families with no hope of being able to buy a home. There must also be building of council housing. Only then can a family be reasonably confident of long-term security of tenure bringing with it stability of education, access to GPs and local amenities.

Jane Whiter
Old Basing, Hants

Sir, The idea that building round railway stations would solve the housing crisis is unrealistic. A commuting member of the household might have easy access to London but the remainder of the family would be reliant on car travel to access the infrastructure they need. To provide this infrastructure closer to the development would involve a further loss of green belt.

There is a considerable amount of brownfield available for homes but large builders are not interested as it is much less profitable than greenfield sites. The other advantage of brownfield is that the infrastructure is already available and can be reached by public transport.

Housing, especially for young people, can be provided using brownfield rather than destroying an essential asset that will help to achieve net zero.

Richard Knox-Johnston
Chairman, London Green Belt Council

Sir, There is a way of providing more genuinely affordable homes without destroying even more of the precious countryside in our small island. It includes reducing net immigration, banning second homes or taxing them more heavily, doing the same for foreign ownership of homes and revising the compulsory purchase laws to give local authorities the power to buy land at a reasonable rate. It is also dangerous to rely on housebuilding for economic growth because it diverts investment from our real economic strengths, which are in services, the creative industries and high-end manufacturing. So let's have some long term-thinking, not more short-term fixes.

Lord Horam
House of Lords

Sir, Over the decades, successive governments have promised to build more houses. I have never understood where they think the skilled workforce will come from to build these extra houses. Simply making more land available on which to build houses does not solve the housebuilding problem.

Nigel Smith
Lutterworth, Leics

Railway reforms

Sir, After the fiasco on the north's railways in May 2018 did serious damage to our economy, the government assured us things would change. However, the "biggest shake-up in three decades" we were promised has now been shelved for the remainder of the parliament ("Sunak shunts Johnson's great rail shake-up into the sidings", May 19).

The decision is a case in point for why we need devolution. Now that both the north's major rail franchises are publicly owned, decision-making over track and train could and should be overseen by local leaders who have the bandwidth and motivation to take this on. Central government does not need control over every minor decision. If Whitehall has no time to push through these much-needed changes, let the north deliver it.

Henri Murison
Chief executive, Northern Powerhouse Partnership

Sir, Your revelation that Great British Railways, a new rail delivery system to run both tracks and rail, has been all but shelved is quite unbelievable. This idea was one of Johnson's better proposals. Even before the strikes our rail network has been plagued with problems: overcrowded carriages, cancellations, ridiculously complex fare structures and very expensive tickets. This dismal performance has meant that some operators have had to go back into public hands. Surely an inexpensive, reliable and possibly expanded rail network is the best way of getting people off the roads and promoting a greener environment. More worrying for Rishi Sunak is that deprioritising this idea leaves the door open for Labour to expand on it and make it a vote-winner of their own.

John Walton
Shepperton, Surrey

Water firm bosses

Sir, The water company executives are paid what most of us would see as grotesquely inflated salaries, yet pass all costs for their performance failures to consumers ("Households to foot bill for firms' £10bn clean-up vow", May 19). I do not believe we will see meaningful improvements until these people are held personally financially responsible, in the same way as if the issue were corruption.

Sir James Dutton
Sherborne, Dorset

Sir, Adam Vaughan has led an outstanding attack on the worst aspects of water companies. The next stage should be forcing the companies to report on specific performance against visible targets. Only through the work of The Times have we been able to see sensible comparisons of bonuses and spills, for example. Water companies should be forced to engage in a common national reporting strategy, so that the public can more easily bring them to account.

Gwilym Hughes
Littlehampton, W Sussex

Dress to de-stress

Sir, When I was at Newnham College, Cambridge University, in the Sixties we did not need to be provided with de-stressing opportunities ("Lego cure for Cambridge exam stress", May 19). In between revising we were bent over sewing machines making our dresses for the May balls.

Celia Greenberg
Fulbourn, Cambs

HITLER'S TROOPS IN BAVARIA

FROM THE TIMES MAY 20, 1923

The Bavarian National Socialist Workers' Party — Adolf Hitler's so-called Bavarian Fascisti — continue to hold frequent rallies in Munich, and a stranger arriving in the city on a Hitler field day might well imagine that the town was occupied by a foreign Power. Bands of storm troops march about in military formation. They wear grey uniforms after the Italian pattern, carry Fascist standards, red with a black Swastika in the centre, and parade the streets without opposition from the authorities. Many of the "storm troops" are lads of 17 to 20, but professionals and businessmen, ex-officers, students, and farmers can be seen in the ranks. The organisation is not only tolerated but indirectly supported by the Government, on the ground that its formations could be used to suppress any Communist rising. Legislation has been enacted by the Bavarian Diet forbidding the members to carry knuckle-dusters or similar weapons, but in spite of this every "active" member of the Hitler organisation carries a flexible steel truncheon covered with rubber, and probably an automatic revolver.

Adolf Hitler himself has been described recently as one of the three most dangerous men in Germany. This is probably rather a flattering estimate of the little Austrian sign-painter, who less than three years ago was earning a precarious living by charging a small admission fee for the meetings he addressed in obscure beer-halls. Nevertheless, the Hitler party today has to be reckoned with as one of the most important factors in the political situation of Bavaria. In December last the number of subscribing members was estimated at 20,000.

Hitler's rise to prominence is mainly due to his gift of oratory. It has yet to be proved that he has any ability as a constructive statesman. Short and stockily built, he barks out abuse against the Republican constitution, foreigners, Jews, profiteers, and incompetent politicians, rather in the manner of a Prussian drill sergeant on parade. He invariably carries his audience with him. At his headquarters newspaper correspondents, while courteously received, are not very welcome; frequently they are told that if they wish to hear the views of the Fascist leader they may do so by attending one of his meetings.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Treating long Covid

Sir, Although there are no "magic bullet" drugs to treat post-Covid syndrome (PCS), there are therapeutic approaches. In Greater Manchester there is a network of specialists who have taken an evidence-based approach. This evidence base must grow to improve the tools in our armoury ("Research into long Covid is crucial to get people working", Thunderer, May 18).

The support offered includes "pacing therapy" to manage energy levels, psychological therapies to treat anxiety and depression, and medication where appropriate. Soon we will offer access to employment advisers. People with PCS are desperate to return to work (leading article, May 19).

We have come a long way but as the world moves on from the pandemic, funding bodies cannot turn their backs on people whose suffering continues.

Dr Catherine Symonds
Consultant liaison psychiatrist, Greater Manchester Post-Covid Services

Special delivery

Sir, Your article "Snail mail means hospital slot missed" (May 17) focused on the problems within Royal Mail and the delays in delivery, using the example of a lady who missed a hospital appointment as a result. A different perspective could make us reflect on the enormous amount of money presumably being spent by the NHS on posting appointment letters instead of using email, which is free and instantly delivered.

Penny St Lawrence
Farnham Royal, Bucks

Let me be clear

Sir, Thank you for the piece on Susie Dent's identification of the cult of meaningless clichés (news and leading article, May 19). May I add three more seemingly ubiquitous and irritating examples: politicians who begin every sentence with "let's be clear" when they intend to be less than that; "issue", which seems to have replaced "problem"; and interviewees who begin every answer with "So". I am often forced to turn off the car radio.

Geoffrey Bourne-Taylor
Wantage, Oxon

Code violation

Sir, Many years ago, while having breakfast at the Athenaeum, the club secretary coughed discreetly behind my chair and whispered that he was concerned my wife appeared to be wearing jeans — in breach of the club dress code (Notebook, May 18; letter, May 19). Overhearing this she patiently remarked that he was clearly unfamiliar with the subtleties of female fashion — her trousers were not jeans and nor could the pelmets worn by the club waitresses be described as skirts.

Christopher Murray
Barford St Michael, Oxon

Sir, I take my hat off to the doormen at the RAC club in Pall Mall. When my drinks guest arrived without a jacket but so drunk he could hardly stand up, instead of refusing him entry they lent him a jacket so big that he looked like the clown he had temporarily become. Happily he has no memory of the evening, we remain the best of friends and the doormen are as discreet as ever.

Alan Smith
Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France

Daily Universal Register

Today: World: Day two of G7 summit; European Rugby Champions Cup Final, Leinster v La Rochelle in Dublin.
Tomorrow: UK: New rail timetable starts.

Birthdays today



Flight Lieutenant John Alexander Cruickshank VC, *pictured*, the last living recipient of the Victoria Cross during the Second World War, 103; **Jeff Blackett**, president of the Rugby Football Union (2020-22), 68; **Sir Graham Brady**, Tory MP for Altrincham and Sale West, chairman of the 1922 Committee, 56; **Colin Sutherland, Lord Carloway**, lord justice general and lord president of the Court of Session (Scotland), 69; **Cher**, singer, 77; **Lynn Davies**, long jump Olympic gold medallist (1964), 81; **Greg Dyke**, director-general, BBC (2000-04), 76; **Rt Rev Vivienne Faull**, bishop of Bristol, 68; **Chris Froome**, four-times Tour de France winner, 38; **Sir John Hegarty**, chairman, Bartle Bogle Hegarty (1991-2012), 79; **Lord (Clive) Hollick**, chief executive, United Business Media (1996-2005), 78; **Claire Horton**, director-general, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 61; **Debbie Jevans**, director of sport for Locog, organisers of the London 2012 Olympics (2006-12), 63; **James Max**, broadcaster, TalkTV, 53; **Pavlos**, Crown Prince of Greece, Prince of Denmark, 56; **Charles Spencer**, **Earl Spencer**, 59; **Louis Theroux**, broadcaster, 53; **Lord (Iain) Vallance of Tummel**, chairman, BT (1987-2001), 80; **Anton Zeilinger**, co-recipient of the Nobel prize in physics (2022), 78.

Birthdays tomorrow



Rosalind Plowright, *pictured*, mezzo-soprano, 74; **Parag Agrawal**, chief executive, Twitter (2021-22), 39; **I. Stephanie Boyce**, president, the Law Society (2021-22), 51; **Mark Cavendish**, cyclist, world road-race champion (2011), 38; **Tom Daley**, diver, Olympic gold medallist (2020), 29; **Alexandra Danson**, former captain of England and Great Britain hockey, Olympic gold medallist (2016), 38; **Nadine Dorries**, Tory MP for Mid Bedfordshire, digital, culture, media and sport secretary (2021-22), 66; **Noel Fielding**, presenter, *The Great British Bake Off* (2017-23), 50; **Tony Hayward**, chairman, Glencore Xstrata (2014-21), 66; **Lord (David) Hunt of Wirral**, secretary of state for Wales (1990-93), 81; **Ronald Isley**, singer-songwriter, the Isley Brothers, 82; **Sir Peter Lampl**, founder and chairman, Sutton Trust charity, 76; **Andrew Neil**, editor, The Sunday Times (1983-94), and broadcaster, 74; **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, artistic director, Serpentine Gallery, 55; **Sir Jonathan Phillips**, warden, Keble College, Oxford (2010-22), 71; **Mary Robinson**, president of Ireland (1990-97), UN high commissioner for human rights (1997-2002), 79; **Leo Sayer**, singer, 75; **Nicola Shaw**, chief executive, Yorkshire Water, 54; **Thomas Teague**, chief coroner of England and Wales, 69; **Edward Watson**, principal dancer, The Royal Ballet (2005-20), 47; **Prof Sir Stanley Wells**, honorary president, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, 93.

On this day

In **1910** nine kings, all related to Edward VII, attended his funeral at Windsor.

The last word

"Hope is itself a species of happiness, and, perhaps, the chief happiness which this world affords." Samuel Johnson, man of letters, in a letter written in 1762 that featured in *Life of Samuel Johnson* by James Boswell (1791)

Missing Guardrails

The government has been far too complacent about the risks arising from artificial intelligence. Britain needs its own AI bill of rights

Sometimes life comes at you fast. It is barely six weeks since the government published its artificial intelligence white paper. Even at the time, it struck many as complacent, effectively kicking the can down the road on how to regulate new technologies that have become a source of global concern. Where other jurisdictions, including the United States and the European Union, were taking a hawkish approach, Michelle Donelan, the science minister, boasted of the government's intention to establish a light-touch regulatory framework designed to turn Britain into the most AI-friendly country in the world. Ruling out legislation, the government instead announced five vague "principles" that AI companies were supposed to abide by, leaving it to regulators to develop their own rules and practices.

Yesterday, though, Rishi Sunak signalled a shift, recognising the need for "guardrails" in the regulation of AI. The change of tone is hardly surprising. Barely a day goes by without a warning from a leading figure in the tech industry about the risks associated with AI. This week Sam Altman, the chief executive of OpenAI, which developed ChatGPT, warned that AI could be used to influence elections, manipulate financial markets and allow criminals to "counterfeit people". The week before last Geoffrey Hinton, considered one of the godfathers of AI, quit Google saying that he regretted his work and the dangers of AI chatbots were "quite scary".

Of course, AI in its widest sense promises to bring many benefits. The exponential growth in the power of computers to process vast amounts of data has an enormous range of potential applications, including faster and more accurate clinical diagnoses and faster development of new medicines through the rapid identification of promising compounds. AI can also help to solve global challenges such as climate change, speeding up the development of clean technologies such as nuclear fusion or in the development of new drought and disease-resistant crop strains. It can also help in fighting crime, for example through the identification of victims and perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

The government should not intervene to protect jobs at risk from new AI tools. There was much alarm this week when BT said it expected by 2030 to cut 10,000 jobs that are likely to become automated. Goldman Sachs has predicted that 300 million jobs worldwide may be at risk from advances in AI, including a quarter of tasks in the US and Europe. But the investment bank also predicted an AI-driven productivity and jobs boom. Every technological advance leads to some roles becoming obsolete. Sixty per cent of jobs today did not exist in 1940. In any case, with more than $100 billion invested in AI start-ups since 2020, governments can hardly stand in the way.

What governments can and must do is seek to limit the very real societal risks arising from chatbots such as ChatGPT. These range from the spread of disinformation, to the reinforcement of inequities through biases in data sets, to the undermining of commercial rights. Sting, former frontman of The Police, warned this week of the risk to songwriters' "social capital". The same risk applies to authors of all published works, including newspapers such as The Times, whose content helps to train the AI bots.

The solution must lie in robust protections against these threats, underpinned by full transparency as to how and where AI is being used. President Biden published a blueprint last year for an American "AI bill of rights" and the Senate held hearings this week on whether new rules are needed. Far more urgency is needed in Britain, too. The government needs to rethink its approach to regulation, starting with the creation of a British AI bill of rights.

Assad's Return

Western powers must continue to treat Syria's dictator as a pariah

A group of teenage boys in the Syrian city of Daraa painted anti-government graffiti on the wall of their school in 2011. Their subsequent arrest and torture provoked protests that President Assad met with pitiless violence. Assad's regime has since slaughtered hundreds of thousands of civilians and displaced half the population of a country numbering 22 million people. But the dictator, smiling broadly, took his seat yesterday at an Arab League summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, a dozen years after his regime was suspended from the organisation.

Syria's reintegration into the region's diplomatic framework is a scandal and a disgrace. Assad ranks among the worst war criminals of the postwar era. To keep power he has made repeated use of chemical weapons against civilians. He has made no concessions to secure his rehabilitation among Arab states; the western democracies should protest rather than acquiesce.

There is no shortage of pressing economic and humanitarian issues affecting the Arab states, not least the miserable conditions of refugees and their exploitation by a growing drugs trade. The urgency of resolving this malaise has prompted a diplomatic push, led by Saudi Arabia, to reintegrate Assad into regional policymaking. Hence, meeting last month, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Syria adopted a plan to repatriate millions of refugees and persuade the western powers in return to ease sanctions on Assad's regime.

It is a short-sighted scheme. The humanitarian crisis it seeks to address is in large part the creation of the Assad regime. What has changed on the ground is not Assad's heart but the fruits of his remorseless campaign of repression. When his regime was under threat in 2011, he responded not with substantive reforms but with directions to the security forces to crush dissent.

The immediate response of Arab states was to isolate Assad and even support armed resistance against him. It did not work. With military backing from Russia and Iran, Assad managed to withstand popular revolt. Since winning military victory in Aleppo in 2017, his regime has steadily regained control of much of the country.

This is a geopolitical fact that the Arab states must work with. There is no reason that western democracies should fall into line, however. Neither is there unanimity in the region for this diplomatic change of tack. Qatar notably insists that rapprochement with Assad should be pinned to improvements in his treatment of the Syrian opposition. The US and its allies should back Doha, and maintain stringent sanctions on Assad's regime. By doing so, the western powers can at least hope to dissuade Arab states from anything more than a symbolic engagement with him.

This is crucial. Western states have to deal, and sometimes ally, with autocracies. Maintaining relations with Saudi Arabia, for example, is necessary to help counter Iran's nuclear ambitions. But even judged by the narrow considerations of realpolitik, welcoming Assad into the fold of international diplomacy is wrong. It will send a message that any despot can prevail and be rewarded if only they are sufficiently determined to shed blood. It will further encourage Putin's regime to intervene on the side of tyranny. Western interests, as well as ideals, are at stake in punishing Assad, rather than embracing him.

A Hard Day's Night

Ruth Wilson's audacious 24-hour stage marathon deserves respect

If you're reading this bright and early on Saturday morning, spare a thought for the actress Ruth Wilson, who took to the stage in *The Second Woman* at London's Young Vic yesterday at 4pm and, all being well, should still be performing all these hours later. Evidently, Equity has relaxed its usually strict rules on overwork.

The two-handed drama lasts seven minutes and concerns a man telling a woman their relationship is over. This repeats 99 times over 24 hours. The male role is played by 100 different men, most of whom are not professional actors and none of whom have rehearsed the scene with Wilson, who plays the woman. Every. Single. Time.

Experimental theatre has, not without good reason, received a bad press over the years. Yet this enterprise sounds as though it may be the best board-treading innovation since the peerlessly comic *Drunk Shakespeare* premiered off Broadway nine years ago. The format of *The Second Woman* should make for a compelling night (or morning, or lunchtime), especially once fatigue takes hold as the finish line nears. It certainly makes a change from the endless jukebox musicals dominating the west end.

Wilson has said she thinks exhaustion will strip away all filters and self-consciousness, reducing artifice and promoting spontaneity as she reacts to getting the elbow, time after time after time. Anyone who has stayed awake all night and long into the next day will suspect she may be right.

Sometimes, theatre can feel as tiring for the audience as it does for the actors. On this occasion, even if theatregoers don't find the play to their taste, they will salute its star's stamina. And then, unlike after more traditionally— and more inconveniently — timed shows, they can enjoy a leisurely dinner, or breakfast, rather than having to race for the last train home. Ruth Wilson, bravo.

Write to Feedback by emailing
feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Train buffs are ever ready to haul us over the coals

Rose Wild
Feedback



@TIMESFEEDBACK

If you had to guess which piece of style advice pings into the inboxes of journalists, picture editors, caption writers and others on this newspaper with the most monotonous regularity, you might not immediately plump for "Beware of trains". It is, though, and it's always prompted by a certain category of complaint.

I've never done a scientific study, but I think it's safe to say that if we receive an email about anything to do with trains, steam engines, locomotives, viaducts, signals, sidings or other matters of that ilk, it will invariably be from a man. Not invariably, but usually, it will also be polite, good-natured and correct.

There have been two recent examples which perhaps illustrate our problem. Robert Foster of Skipton, who I have reason to believe has been writing to us on this subject since before email was invented, took issue with the caption to a handsome photograph of a steam locomotive, which is named after its famous creator. Our caption writer had taken great care to follow the style guide entry — "locomotive names should be in roman, as with ship or aircraft names, eg Flying Scotsman, Mallard. Do not use a capped 'The' unless certain it is part of the name, eg The Queen's Own Hussars. Beware of confusing locomotives with trains (for names of the latter use quotes); the 'Aberdonian' or the 'Cathedrals Express' (both named trains) might be pulled by the Flying Scotsman (a locomotive)" — but had tripped up on one very fine detail.

"Sir Nigel Gresley," Mr Foster wrote, "would have expected his namesake locomotive, or indeed any of the A4 Class of which the world record holder 60022 Mallard was the most famous, to 'haul' — not 'pull' — an express (or indeed any) train."

You might wonder, in the face of scrutiny at this sort of level, why we would put ourselves through the mill time and time again but everyone, it seems, loves a photo illustrating the glories of steam. In fact, I sometimes wonder if our picture editors think it's worth showing a picture of the British countryside unless there's something mechanical puffing its way through the middle of it. The challenge this poses to our caption writers is that most of them are far too young to have had train sets, or probably even to have seen a steam locomotive in action.

Talking of too young, here's the other example, which came in Thursday's mail. Kevin Cooper wrote from Wargrave, Berks, after reading James Marriott's column about how humanity responds to technological revolutions. "Brought up in an age of electric motors in trains and cars, Marriott may well imagine that the 'Newcomen engine whirred into life 300 years ago'. Steam engines hiss, clank and puff into life; they assuredly do not whirr."

Haul, clank, puff, it's uphill work trying to keep on top of all this but the news isn't all bad. Back in March Mr Foster went to the trouble of emailing Feedback just to say: "There is no error in today's caption to the photograph of Flying Scotsman on page 18!"

King of bants

Bill Holloway got in touch from Rushmoor, Surrey, after I mentioned the new buzzword that annoyed people over the coronation weekend. "Coronate," he wrote, "is a cracking example of what HW Fowler called 'back formation'."

Back formation sounds like something a locomotive might pull or, sorry, haul. It actually refers to a word that looks like a logical extension of an existing word, but isn't. If the people who use "coronate" thought about such things, they'd probably assume it's a verb the noun coronation derives from, while in fact the noun is Latin, *coronatio*, and the verb an invention.

Fowler's examples of these supposed derivatives included lazy and banting, with the non-existent words from which they might have come being laze and bant. Laze, as Mr Holloway points out, has managed to become a perfectly respectable verb, although "to bant" has not survived and "banting", sadly, has disappeared as well.

Sadly, because William Banting was a 19th-century hero. A successful undertaker, he wrote a pamphlet entitled *Letter on Corpulence*, explaining how he had lost 46lb by following a low-carbohydrate diet. Although "of no very great size", he wrote that by middle age he couldn't stoop to tie his shoes, had to come downstairs backwards to spare his ankles and knees, and puffed and blew going upstairs.

Corpulence sold 50,000 copies. Banting gave the profits to charity, and for a time his name became a household word. In Fowler's day, if you said you were banting, everyone knew you were on a diet.

Chas and Liz

David Bogod of West Bridgford says he doesn't mind much either way, but was surprised to see "Charles" in a headline. "I don't recall the late Queen ever being referred to as 'Elizabeth', or indeed anything other than 'the Queen'."

And Aidan Reynolds was surprised too, to find "Mr Welby" in a leader about the Archbishop of Canterbury. "I wonder if you will soon be calling Pope Francis 'Signor Bergoglio'?"

Familiarity seems to be running amok. Off with their headlines, I say.

Living under a rock

An article last Saturday about some prehistoric caves for sale in Torquay compared them to "the humble abode occupied by Fred and Wilma Flintstone". Gavin Dobson wondered if the writer had ever seen *The Flintstones*. "Not only did they not live in a cave, but theirs was a modern suburban bungalow, albeit built from stone slabs, with all mod cons. Fifty years on I can still remember the mammoth trunk used to spray the dishes, the pelican for a washing machine and a record player with a bird's beak for a needle. And you could also say that their car, being feet-powered, had zero emissions." Yabba dabba doo.



Faith, flag and a hotline to Maggie's ghost — welcome to the Tories' new normal

Matt Chorley



TIMES RADIO
Listen to Matt Chorley every Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm

In politics nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes. Well now, it seems, not even passing means you are consigned to the past.

"I'm an old anglophile American conservative," declared Chris DeMuth, an old anglophile American conservative. "With several spicy Margaret Thatcher stories in my dinner party repertoire." Let that word "spicy" send a shiver down your spine.

He was speaking at this week's National Conservatism conference, which was otherwise dominated by Jacob Rees-Mogg accusing his own government of gerrymandering, Tory MP Miriam Cates saying the biggest threat to our way of life is not Russia or nukes but a lack of babies, a head teacher reciting Russell Crowe films and the fact that everyone in the audience actually turned out to be a protester.

The event was supposed to mark the moment that weird, faith-based strain of American right-wingery washed up on our shores. Instead it was ridiculed as an am-dram production of what would happen if the Addams Family and the Munsters met at a wedding and everybody took it in turns to make the father of the bride speech.

You might think it will struggle to gain traction but it has big-name supporters, at least according to DeMuth: "Lady Thatcher and I have been communing about National Conservatism, this new movement, and I can report she is totally on board." Yes, this esteemed lawyer, who worked on speeches for Nixon and advised Reagan, has been speaking to the other side. And I don't mean Labour. He has been in a dialogue with the departed. A direct connection to wherever Mrs T is up there (or down there).

That line could be about to get busy. She is in demand. Thatcher's favourite ad firm, Saatchi & Saatchi, has just been hired to reinvent the John Lewis Christmas ad. The grocer's daughter still helping out in the shop…

A soft-focus scene of a well-upholstered home on Christmas morning. Bare feet tiptoeing down the stairs. There, laid out by the illegal woodburning stove, presents tied up in pussy bows for everyone. A handbag for mum. "There is no such thing as socks-iety" slippers for dad. A "not for turning" corkscrew for granny. An iron ladle for the cookery-mad teen. A cuddly toy in the shape of Norman Tebbit for the children. All gleefully unwrapped while Sam Ryder plays *Maggie May* very, very slowly on the piano. At least nobody gets a lump of coal in their stocking because all the mines were closed.

Maybe we have been at the mercy of our souls in politics for some time. Liz Truss at the pottery wheel in her version of the movie *Ghost*, the spirit of Geoffrey Howe looming up behind her, unable to stop her ensuring that nobody was left with a pot to piss in. Boris Johnson following Winston's whispers to crack open a bottle morning, noon and night. And we know which scruffy leftwinger was advising Jeremy Corbyn about leading your party to a crushing defeat: one Foot in the grave.

It raises the prospect of some dramatic returns. You were the future once and can be again. YouGov polling shows Thatcher still has popularity of 49 per cent, well ahead of Keir Starmer on 31 per cent and Rishi Sunak on 25 per cent. It's not an election we need, it's a ouija board.

Little yellow book is my link with Philby

Volumes from the spy's Moscow library, like the one I own, are at the centre of a row between KGB nostalgists in Russia

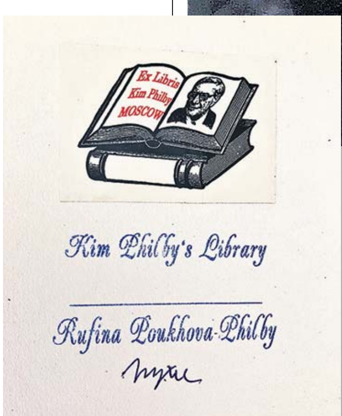
Ben Macintyre



@BENMACINTYRE1

ANL/SHUTTERSTOCK





Kim Philby in Russia with his fourth wife, Rufina Pukhova. Left, the bookplate to Four Cautionary Tales

On the desk beside me as I write is a yellow hardback book published in 1947, a collection of Chinese folk stories about love entitled *Four Cautionary Tales*. The book is itself unremarkable. The bookplate inside, however, is extraordinary: "Ex Libris Kim Philby, MOSCOW", with a line-drawing of the spy and double agent, Britain's most notorious traitor.

This volume was part of the library amassed by Philby after he escaped to the Soviet Union in 1963, following his exposure as a KGB mole. Philby spent the rest of his life in Moscow, giving occasional lectures to the KGB, eating Oxford marmalade, reading the cricket scores in out-of-date copies of The Times, and collecting books in English, ordered from Bowes & Bowes booksellers in Cambridge.

Philby collected books by former spies John le Carré and Graham Greene, novels by Nancy Mitford, PG Wodehouse, Elizabeth Bowen and F Scott Fitzgerald, memoirs, histories, biographies and 21 whodunnits by Agatha Christie. Each book carried his bookplate and image (the same drawing that would end up on a Soviet postage stamp celebrating his espionage on behalf of the USSR).

After Philby's death in 1988, his Russian widow Rufina Pukhova preserved and curated the library. Her name and squiggled signature appear alongside his in the bookplates. But following her death in 2021, the collection was broken up and some items from the Philby flat, including his books, were put up for sale. A Russian friend, the historian and journalist Alexei Venediktov, spotted two, and bought them for me.

The other is *A Hardy Companion: A Guide to the Works of Thomas Hardy and their Background*. It is easy to imagine Philby reading it in his drunken dotage, pining for the bucolic landscape of Old England, a nation he had comprehensively betrayed. But it is the little yellow book that holds within it another story. It is signed "Peter Pollock, 1947". Pollock was the heir to a steel fortune, part-time farmer and full-time flaneur, and the gay lover of Guy Burgess, another of the Cambridge Five group of KGB spies.

Burgess and Pollock met in 1938 and remained lovers, on and off, for a decade. The unruly Burgess was wildly promiscuous but, according to his biographer Andrew Lownie, "remained in love with Pollock for the rest of his life". In 1947, Pollock presented him with this little book of Chinese love stories.

Four years later, with MI5 closing in, Burgess fled to Russia along with the fellow KGB spy Donald Maclean. He either took the book with him when he defected, or it was sent on afterwards.

Twelve years later Burgess lay dying of liver failure in a Moscow hospital, when Philby himself arrived to begin his long Russian exile.

Burgess had been living in Philby's home in Washington (where Philby was the MI6 head of station), when the latter got wind that Maclean was suspected of espionage. He sent Burgess back to London to warn Maclean, but insisted: "Don't you go too". Burgess, congenitally incapable of doing what he was told, defected with Maclean, igniting the long fuse of suspicion that would eventually lead to Philby himself, and blast him to Moscow.

Philby still blamed Burgess for exposing him, but he is believed to have visited his old friend and fellow traitor in hospital, where a deathbed reconciliation took place. In his will, Burgess left Philby his dressing table, portable organ, plum-coloured wing armchair, carved bedhead, clothes and some of his favourite works of literature, among them the book on my desk.

The stories were written by Feng Menglong, a Ming scholar-bureaucrat (1574–1646), who came to the aid of the embattled dynasty in old age by trying to encourage his countrymen to resist the invaders, and may have been executed by Qing soldiers. Perhaps Burgess saw himself, and Philby, in this light: keepers of the truth faith, martyrs into old age who stuck to their communist principles.

Philby is still a revered figure among Russian spies (including the former KGB colonel Vladimir Putin) and a row has erupted within Russia's intelligence community over what to do with his apartment, its library and other contents, including Persian rugs, paintings, gifts from the East German Stasi and Bulgarian KGB, a signed photograph of Che Guevara, and even a hockey puck Philby caught at a game between two of Russia's top ice hockey teams.

Rufina herself wanted to turn the three-bedroom apartment into a museum, and was willing to hand the lot over to the Russian intelligence service in exchange for a pension. This never happened, and instead she was reduced to selling artefacts to make ends meet.

After her death, a group of Philby's former colleagues and friends in the KGB, calling themselves the "Philbophiles", banded together to try to preserve the collection. Various museums also expressed interest in obtaining the personal possessions of the super-spy, as did Russia's Military University of the Ministry of Defence.

But according to the Russian investigative magazine The Insider, those plans were scuppered when Veronika Krasheninnikova, a prominent apologist for the Putin regime described as the "lady friend" of the head of the SVR (successor to the KGB), turned up and made a full inventory of everything in the apartment. Some 54 objects were then transferred to the foreign intelligence museum in Yasenevo, including Philby's pipes, the radio on which he listened to the BBC, his briefcase and the hockey puck.

Since Rufina's death, a number of other items, notably Philby's books, have appeared on the open market. The whereabouts of the rest of the Philby collection is unknown.

Philby himself almost certainly expected his library to be preserved whole as a testament to his literary tastes: an English man of letters to the last, maintaining a citadel to Englishness in a Moscow apartment given to him by the grateful Communist authorities.

Instead, Philby's library has been dispersed to the four winds, including a little yellow book of Chinese stories: an espionage artefact that passed from Peter Pollock to Guy Burgess in 1947, from Burgess to Kim Philby in 1963, and from Philby, indirectly, to me in 2023. A legacy of spies.

WEEKEND ESSAY

Net migration is at a record high. How did it come to this?

For 13 years Tories have promised to bring immigration down, but the post-Brexit system has allowed it to soar as foreign workers take unpopular jobs. For Rishi Sunak, it's a political headache and an economic necessity, writes **Matt Dathan**



On Thursday, a release of data will land on Rishi Sunak's desk, wrapped around a political hand grenade. The Office for National Statistics is expected to say that net migration has hit another record high: some 700,000 more people came into the UK in 2022 than left.

This is almost three times the level in 2019 when Boris Johnson promised that "overall numbers will come down". It is more than double the previous peak in 2016, when Johnson and Vote Leave promised that Brexit would give the government "control" of immigration. And it comes 13 years after David Cameron promised to bring the figure down to the "tens of thousands".

How has it come to pass that successive Conservative governments have presided over record levels of immigration that have so spectacularly and consistently mismatched their rhetoric? The answer lies in the fact that Brexit delivered precisely what it promised: since 2020 and the end of EU freedom of movement, Britain has full control of immigration. And Britain has a crisis of labour shortages.

Behind next week's figures lies the points-based immigration system introduced by Johnson. It allows employers to recruit overseas workers if they score at least 70 points, attained through English language skills, qualifications, being under 26 and a earning a prospective salary of at least £25,600, for example. The government can lower the salary threshold for certain jobs to make it easier for sectors suffering from major labour gaps to recruit from abroad.

The post-Brexit surge in numbers was by no means inevitable. In fact all immigration forecasts predicted numbers would fall after 2020. But the opposite has happened because of Johnson's decision to opt for a significantly more liberalised approach to post-Brexit immigration than Theresa May. The surge in visas issued under the points-based system — more than 1.1 million in its first year — was a rare and surprising success story for the Home Office, a stark contrast to its struggles issuing visas for Ukrainian refugees. Work visas have an approval rate of about 96 per cent.

There are some abnormalities. The numbers include 174,200 Ukrainian refugees and 160,700 Hongkongers fleeing China's security crackdown. But the post-Brexit immigration system has certainly been more open to foreign workers and students than was expected. Pre-Brexit, employers had to prove that a domestic worker could not be recruited to fill a vacancy before looking abroad. Now, with lower salary and skills thresholds for migrants, up to half of all jobs are open to foreign workers. For the first time, 20 per cent of the UK workforce is foreign born; Britain is more of an immigrant country than the US.

With a system now considerably less liberal for Europeans but considerably more liberal for non-EU migrants, the face of new arrivals is changing. Indians accounted for more than a third of long-term work visas last year. They have overtaken Poles as the largest source of new migrant workers: net migration from the EU fell into negative figures last year as 51,000 more left the UK than arrived. Some 3.5 million EU nationals now live here.

One key quality of the incomers is that they now tend to arrive as families rather than individuals. Polish and Romanian workers typically travelled to the UK for seasonal work but left their family at home. It was much easier to travel within the EU. And lower-skilled jobs tended to attract younger workers. Now, the points-based system is designed to attract higher-skilled labour, which implies older workers who are more likely to have family. They also come from further afield and can't nip home.

UK visa rules allow an applicant to bring a dependent partner or child under 18 as long as they can prove they have money to support themselves. The amount of money differs depending on the type of visa, but for work visas it can be as low £285 per dependant. The number of "dependants" arriving along with foreign workers — 155,343 — has almost tripled since 2019. This again is being largely driven by Indians, with the 67,380 workers who came last year bringing 70,647 dependants.

The trend for study visas is even more exponential, with 485,758 foreign students bringing an additional 135,788 dependants — meaning more than a fifth (22 per cent) of all study-related visas issued last year were to dependants. It was 6 per cent for the 135,788 students in 2019. Last year, 60,923 Nigerian dependants came with 59,053 Nigerian students. These new trends have prompted the Office for Budget Responsibility into two significant forecasts: that migration will add about 250,000 people to the population every year from 2027 onwards; and, given the numbers of dependants, that the economic contribution of migration under the post-Brexit regime will be lower than in the past.

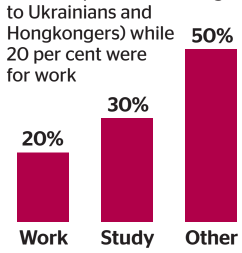
It should not be a surprise that immigration has soared, given it was designed to react to the changing needs of the economy. The "trucker crisis" of 2021 is a case in point. A shortfall of 120,000 lorry drivers was leaving supermarket shelves bare and petrol pumps dry. The government handed out 5,000 emergency visas, rewrote cabotage rules for foreign drivers — and invested in "skills bootcamps" to train 5,000 drivers here.

Some industries are chronically in need of migrant labour. Take the care sector, with 165,000 vacancies, about 10 per cent of the workforce. In February last year, care workers were added to the shortage occupation list, allowing care homes to recruit overseas workers on a salary of at least £21,000 or £10.75 per hour, barely more than the minimum wage. The number of foreign workers arriving to work in the health and care sector soared by almost two and a half times last year compared to 2021. The 77,000 health and care visas issued in 2022 were the highest number of grants for any job.



Reasons for visit

Half of all visas issued last year were non-work or non-study visas (including to Ukrainians and Hongkongers) while 20 per cent were for work



Source: OBR

The move was supposed to be temporary but the government has yet to produce a longer-term strategy for how the social care sector is expected to cope with an ageing population and higher life expectancy.

Mike Padgham, the managing director of St Cecilia's care group in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, says his five care homes could not function without the 20 staff he has recruited from India, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Nigeria, which make up about 12 per cent of his workforce. "The care sector would collapse without overseas work," he says. "If we couldn't recruit overseas, particularly the nurses, we wouldn't be able to continue at the moment because despite our best efforts, we can't recruit enough from the workforce in this country. There aren't enough people out there who want to work in social care because social care has always been a Cinderella service, always low-paid. If we want to get more people employed in social care from this country we've got to pay a decent wage, but local authorities aren't funded enough so we can't pay them enough."

The lack of care workers has a knock-on effect for the health service: it delays the discharging of patients from hospitals, exacerbating waiting lists.



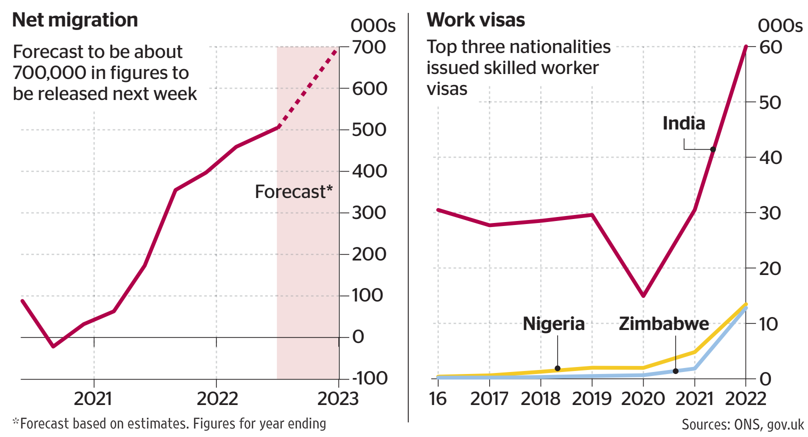
The Migration Advisory Committee, which advises the government on immigration policy, agrees with Padgham over pay. It has repeatedly called on the government to introduce a minimum rate for care workers above the £10.42 an hour national minimum wage and improve the poor terms and conditions compared to competing occupations that explain why care homes struggle to employ and retain staff.

Pay is not the only reason British workers do not want to do the jobs that are in greatest supply. Tom Bradshaw, deputy president of the National

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES; FACUNDO ARRIZABALAGA/EPA



On the move



*Forecast based on estimates. Figures for year ending

Sources: ONS, gov.uk

We still rely on seasonal EU workers to pick fruit and veg, while, contrary to posters, getting control of our borders has not reduced immigration. Changes in demographics include an influx of Ukrainian refugees, below, while many Poles, below left, have returned home

Farmers Union, said it is "completely impractical" to expect British workers to fill tens of thousands of seasonal vacancies in the farming industry. Farmers will be able to recruit 45,000 seasonal workers from abroad next year after the government maintained the current cap, which was increased this year from 30,000 last year. But that is still at least 40,000 short of what is needed to fill shortages in the horticulture sector.

Suella Braverman, the home secretary, raised eyebrows in a speech this week saying fruit pickers were among the kinds of jobs that British workers should be trained up to do. But Bradshaw says it's not about whether British workers can do the work or the low-paid nature of horticulture jobs, but more to do with location.

"The jobs are in rural environments, workers are housed in static caravans and mobile homes on farms, and UK workers can't relocate for what is a temporary job. It doesn't fit with the British workforce who are often settled and based in urban conurbations. You're not going to relocate your family just for a three or six-month period, but that's what seasonal work requires. That's the biggest barrier for these seasonal jobs."

During the pandemic, the government tried to replace the loss of overseas seasonal workers with British workers through its Pick For Britain campaign. A million people initially expressed an interest; just 8,000 stayed in jobs. Statistically, there is no mismatch between Britons and job vacancies. There are a million vacancies in the UK economy and about seven million adults of working age who are not in work. They are long-term sick or on other benefits. This is the pool of people to whom Braverman was referring when she said Britain must become more self-sufficient in filling labour shortages or else we risk "forgetting how to do things for ourselves".

But do those millions of inactive Brits actually want to work? In Manchester, there are 40,000 jobs advertised at various different pay grades, but 18 per cent of Mancunians are claiming out-of-work benefits — jobseekers allowance pays £84.80 a week — suggesting many of them don't want the jobs going. There are similar figures in Birmingham, Glasgow and Liverpool, where almost one in five working-age people are on out-of-work benefits. Will any government have the long-term conviction or ability to somehow get those inactive Brits to fill the jobs currently being filled by foreigners in a way that does not harm the economy?

The government would insist that it is already doing so. Jeremy Hunt's budget targeted four groups of working-age people who are not in work: the long-term sick, the unemployed, parents of young children and the over-fifties who have taken early retirement. But this will take time. And in the meantime, Hunt has signalled that Britain's immigration controls will be eased further, telling business leaders this week the government will always be "pragmatic" when it comes to using migrants to plug shortages.

The likes of Braverman argue that this is adding huge pressures to housing, education, health and other public services — and that there are social consequences to immigration that cannot be ignored. On housing, for instance. Recent migrants are almost three times as likely to be renters compared with other migrants, helping to drive up prices, particularly in London. Three quarters of migrants who arrived in the past five years rent privately, only one in ten are in social housing and 16 per cent — one in six — have bought their own home.

Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, says the lack of investment for public services to cope with ever-growing immigration explains why immigration has proven unpopular in some areas of the country. "It really is very important that the support is put in place to the local communities because even if this is something that benefits the country as a whole, and it probably does benefit the country as a whole, it can be very painful for some of those who can't get a doctor's appointment or what have you in those local areas, and we have neglected that for a period of time. It really is beholden on government to make sure they manage this in a way which is consistent with maintaining public services."

Braverman wants more done to ensure migrants learn English and "understand British norms", insisting immigration must go hand in hand with integration. In her speech this week she warned that the failure to do so will lead more communities to live in silos.

Miriam Cates, one of the emerging leaders on the right-wing of the Conservative party, warned this week that the UK's low birth rate was threatening Britain's way of life. She said families should be encouraged to have more children as falling birth rates were "the one overarching threat to British conservatism, and to the whole of western society".



And yet Britain is not alone. A low birth rate, ageing domestic workforce, and not enough locals to drive trucks is a common theme across the richer world. The answer? Turn to sub-Saharan Africa, India and Latin America to fill these labour shortages, even if electorates don't show much enthusiasm for higher immigration.

Some five million more people moved to affluent countries last year than left them, up 80 per cent from pre-pandemic levels, according to analysis by the Wall Street Journal. Germany is trying to bring in more graduates and blue-collar workers under a new points-based system; Canada wants 1.5 million more migrants by 2025; South Korea plans to admit 110,000 low-skill foreigners to work on farms and in factories, up 60 per cent from last year.

Migrants have arrived in Britain in peaks and troughs. Nearly half a million people arrived as part of the Windrush generation from the Caribbean in the two decades after the Second World War, encouraged by active government policy aimed at rebuilding Britain's postwar economy. Migration slowed, and then even dipped into negative figures in the 1980s but in every year from 1994 until the Covid-19 pandemic, net migration was positive.

During the 2000s, when Blair opened Britain to the EU's newest central and eastern states, between 5,000 and 13,000 were predicted to come. In fact, numbers rose significantly, fluctuating between 150,000 and 300,000 a year. But unlike then, the current peak is a result of active government policy. And in contrast to the Blair years, the government is in control of the numbers. So achieving Tory pledges to reduce immigration simply requires political decisions to do so.

> “Indians accounted for more than a third of work visas last year, overtaking Poles as the largest source of new migrant workers

YouGov's tracker consistently shows that the public believes immigration is too high: 57 per cent said so this month compared to 17 per cent who said the current level is "about right". But bringing it down now would require either a policy of self-harm to the economy or somehow persuading, or forcing, Britons to plug the million job vacancies.

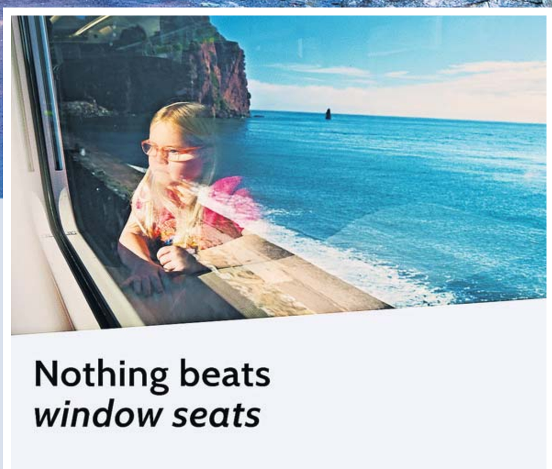
Rishi Sunak has suggested he wants to cut the numbers to below half a million. Is he channelling one of his predecessors? When Cameron made that infamous pledge to reduce immigration to the "tens of thousands", he had "no intention of doing it", Lord O'Donnell, the then cabinet secretary, told an event on Thursday night. When O'Donnell proposed ways in which the policy could be achieved, including the prospect of leaving the EU or a vast reduction in visas, Cameron replied: "Don't be daft. It's an announcement, don't get carried away."

Matt Dathan is Home Affairs Editor

ALAMY; LNER



LNER boasted of the "magnificent views" on its routes, using a picture of a railway in Devon, more than 150 miles from its nearest lines



Rail firm on wrong track in ad campaign

A train company has been mocked for using a picture of another operator's line in its advertising (Seren Hughes writes).

With long coastal stretches from Newcastle to Aberdeen featuring the picturesque village of Alnmouth and the harbour town of Stonehaven, London North Eastern Railway (LNER) should be spoilt for choice to showcase views from its trains. But it used a photograph of a railway in Devon, more than 150 miles from LNER's nearest point, to brag about the east coast main line's "magnificent views".

LNER posted a photo on Twitter of a young girl gazing out at turquoise waters and imposing cliffs with the words: "Not to brag but we have some magnificent views on our route! From greenery to beautiful beaches, there's something stunning to see from your seat."

Passengers noticed that the picture was actually taken on Great Western Railway's route. Kevin Fitzpatrick wrote on Twitter: "Such a shame that view isn't on any of your routes though." Sam Sheldrick added: "Do LNER go to Devon then?" LNER said that the picture was part of an industry-wide campaign — but its response included another blunder, referring to the county of "Devonshire" rather than Devon. It tweeted: "Yes, we don't stop in Devonshire, but the imagery is not train-operator-specific, but instead shows the beauty of views outside your window when travelling by train." Great Western Railway chipped in, tweeting: "Such a lovely window view! We are particularly proud that this one is on the gorgeous GWR network. Some might say it's the best train view in the country! (And we'd agree!)"

LNER runs from King's Cross in London to York, Glasgow and Aberdeen. GWR's trains connect London Paddington, Bristol and Cardiff to areas across Devon and Cornwall.

The Nothing Beats Being There campaign was launched last month by the Rail Delivery Group, Network Rail and Great British Railways to encourage people to return to train travel.

LNER declined to comment further.

Worker at Arts Council 'likened gay rights group to Ku Klux Klan'

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

An employee at Arts Council England compared a prominent campaign group for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals to the Ku Klux Klan, a former senior staff member has claimed.

Denise Fahmy, who says she was hounded out of Arts Council England (ACE) over her gender-critical views, is seeking compensation for "harassment and victimisation". She left after working at the public arts organisation as a grant officer for 15 years.

On the first day of an employment tribunal in Leeds, Fahmy, 54, said she had been made to feel intimidated and humiliated when she questioned why £9,000 of funding had been withdrawn from LGB Alliance. The money was withdrawn amid a social media backlash and claims the charity was transphobic — an allegation it denies.

On April 14, 2022, three days after the funding was announced, Simon Mellor, the deputy chief executive of ACE, told a meeting of 400 employees that the grant had been "a mistake". Fahmy said she was the only person to challenge this and that when she asked why he was "concerned about LGB Alliance", Mellor responded that it was a "divisive organisation that has a history of anti-trans exclusionary activity".

A petition was later circulated against staff within ACE who were anti-trans, Fahmy said. She claimed it accused LGB Alliance of being a "cultural parasite and a glorified hate group". She said one of about 100 signatories to the petition, which appeared on the ACE staff intranet, said LGB Alliance was "fast becoming the KKK of the LGBTQAI+ community and should be an immediate red flag".

Another colleague wrote that gender-critical views were a "cancer … [which] needs to be removed from our organisation".

After an internal investigation found she was not a victim of harassment, in August 2022 she was signed off with stress. She resigned last February.

Mellor told the tribunal he strongly denied all the accusations. "I certainly wasn't aware before the [all-staff meeting] of her views on gender-critical beliefs, and it was something which I completely respected her right to have and articulate a view on," he said.

Childline in hijack accusation

Keith Perry

Childline has been accused of being hijacked by activists after messages posted in chat rooms hosted by the charity advised girls as young as 14 to undertake breast binding and take hormone blockers behind their parents' backs, it has been reported.

James Esses, a former Childline counsellor, told The Daily Telegraph that he had been contacted by staff who felt under pressure to affirm children with gender dysphoria. Heather Binning, founder of the Women's Rights Network, said: "Who are the people giving this advice? Are they medically qualified?"

Childline is a subsidiary of the NSPCC. An NSPCC spokesman said: "Childline is — and has always been — here for every child, no matter the issue or concern." The Charity Commission said that it was "aware of concerns" about Childline and was deciding whether to hold an investigation.



Now your bra is more than just a support act

Your last bra might have come in a multipack, but the A-list's favourites right now are pure one-offs. Forget M&S undies, they are heading to D&G instead (Hannah Rogers writes). Let's call it the Show-Off Bra, because these ones are designed to be seen rather than covered up.

In Cannes earlier this week, Phoebe Waller-Bridge wore a white sheer show-off bra under a white Dolce & Gabbana suit. Charlize Theron flashed hers on the red carpet recently too: in her case, double-D stands for a Dior bra peeping out from one of the label's deep-V, crochet kaftans at the premiere of her latest film.

On the front row of the Chanel show in Los Angeles last week, Margot Robbie wore a black bra in lieu of even the most cropped top, clearly visible beneath an open gold waistcoat.

The rest of the style set are wearing show-off bras in lieu of tops these days too. Influencers wear theirs with blazers, trench coats, leather jackets, gilets — or simply on their own. At most, some might layer a light jacket over the top of theirs — nothing else, though.

It's the next stage in a big luxury overhaul of everybody's smalls, as selfies turn even one's underwear drawer into a branding opportunity.

Along with logoed tights and socks — even designer-stamped G-strings — the most exclusive labels are turning bras into trendy must-haves rather than traditional essentials.

At Celine, a show-off bra is £325 and made of matte jersey; Chanel's wool version costs £910. Dior has one for £1,100. It is not made of lace, but cotton voile. You might care for yours on a delicates cycle, but show-off bras tend to be dry-clean only.

Are they the most overpriced underwires yet?



Margot Robbie, Kate Davidson Hudson, Camila Alves McConaughey and Charlize Theron have all given underwear a starring role

Serviceman faces trial over leaks

David Brown

A serving member of the armed forces will face trial accused of breaching the Official Secrets Act by sharing "highly sensitive" military information.

Thomas Newsome, 36, is said to have made a "damaging disclosure" on April 17 "relating to defence", the Old Bailey was told. He is alleged to have shared a ten-page document having returned to the UK from overseas deployment on that day. The release of such information would pose "a real and immediate threat to the lives of British citizens based outside the UK", it is alleged.

Newsome was also charged with failing to "prevent the unauthorised disclosure of those documents" said to have been contained on a USB stick.

Newsome appeared in court on video from Wandsworth jail in south London. His trial will be held at Kingston crown court next year.

Family scoops a sweet victory in battle over ice cream legacy

Shayma Bakht

The first wife of a multimillionaire ice-cream tycoon has won an inheritance battle against his widow over his £4.75 million fortune.

Over about 40 years Ernesto "Ernie" Colicci built an ice-cream empire with his first wife, Josephine Colicci, that included a chain of cafés in British parks. He died in 2021 after contracting coronavirus, aged 66.

Colicci began his business, ECSI Ltd, shortly after moving to the UK from Italy in 1982. It was based around 35 sites across London parks and operated through cafés, restaurants and ice-cream vans.

Ernie and Josephine divorced in 2011 and in 2014 he married Russian-born Nora Grinberg, who in his 2017 will he listed, along with their infant daughter, as the inheritor of his entire £4.75 million fortune.

He also left a letter to Rob Colicci, 39, and Rosanna Colicci, 36, his children from his marriage with Josephine. It said they were "independent adults now with financial security" and added that he had "provided both of them with significant financial funds in their lifetimes". Both children were said to have played a significant role in building the family enterprise.



Ernesto "Ernie" Colicci with his first wife and family, who sued his second wife Nora Grinberg, right, over their inheritance



Josephine, 59, and her children sued her ex-husband's widow, arguing that his £1.6 million portion in the ice-cream business — about 40 per cent — should rightfully go to his eldest children. They insisted that his stake in the family business was due to be passed on to them under an agreement they drew up together in 2016.

Judge Mark Anderson KC handed the family a victory at the High Court in London, ruling that the 2016 agreement entitling his eldest children to the £1.6 million shares still stood at the time he died, and Grinberg was sued by her husband's first family as the executor of his estate.

The siblings each already own a 10 per cent stake in the family company and Rob is a director, with Josephine owning the remaining 40 per cent.

Penelope Reed, who represented Josephine and her children, told the court at trial that the case turned on the effect of a 2016 legal deed made between Josephine, Ernie and their children, by which the parents "each covenanted to make a will" leaving their shares in the company to Rob and Rosanna. Josephine said she agreed with her ex-husband in 2016 that their two children would inherit their company shares to protect the Colicci empire.

Angela Walsh, for Grinberg, confronted Josephine with claims that she had referred to her ex-husband's second wife as his "Russian maid", adding that it was a "derogatory term for an independent professional woman", to which Josephine responded: "Possibly."

The barrister told the judge that Grinberg would face financial hardship if she lost her late husband's stake in the company and that she had sacrificed her career as a chemical engineer running her own business to raise a family.

"The financial impact on his wife and daughter has been life-changing," she added.

Giving his ruling however, the judge said: "Nora's financial position is not relevant to any of the issues which I have to decide."

He said that Ernie Colicci had first signed up to the possibility of the shares being left to his eldest children in an agreement drawn up in 2011, which had been made obligatory in 2016. The 2017 agreement had not superseded the 2016 one, the judge found.

The Smiths' bassist Andy Rourke dies aged 59

Peter Chappell

Andy Rourke, the Smiths' talented but troubled bassist, has died at the age of 59.

His former bandmate Johnny Marr tweeted: "It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Andy Rourke after a lengthy illness with pancreatic cancer. Andy will be remembered as a kind and beautiful soul . . . and as a supremely gifted musician." The Suede bassist Mat Osman called Rourke "a total one-off", adding: "A rare bassist whose sound you could recognise straight away. I remember so clearly playing that *Barbarism [Begins at Home]* break over and over, trying to learn the riff, and marvelling at this steely funk driving the track along."

Rourke and Marr met at school in Wythenshawe in the 1970s. When Marr formed the Smiths with Morrissey, they quickly recruited Rourke and drummer Mike Joyce, going on to become one of the most acclaimed indie bands of the 1980s.

Rourke's relationship with the band was unsteady from their early days. He was sacked for two weeks before the release of their eponymously titled first album and later developed a heroin addiction. He was arrested for heroin possession in 1986. After the Smiths broke up in 1987, he and Joyce sued Morrissey and Marr over royalties. Rourke settled out of court for £83,000, hundreds of thousands of pounds less than Joyce won in court in 1996.

In 2007 Rourke formed Freebass with the Stone Roses star Mani and New Order's Peter Hook. He went on to form D.A.R.K. with the musician and DJ Olé Koretsky and the Cranberries singer Dolores O'Riordan.

Obituary, pages 74-75



‘Plastic grass is an aberration . . .

Gardens are all about mankind’s relationship with nature — so it’s no to artificial plants and tangles of twigs and weeds, Monty Don tells **Alice Thomson**

It’s only 24 hours until the Chelsea Flower Show and Monty Don has been struggling. First, he tested positive for Covid and then he has been coping with the third anniversary of the death of his dog, Nigel, the golden retriever who was the real star of *Gardeners’ World.* But it’s May, his favourite time of the year in Longmeadow, Herefordshire. The rain has abated, he has pruned the perennials and clematis, checked the lily leaves for red beetles, divided the grasses and primroses and aerated the compost.

Chelsea should be heavenly for a gardener but the Royal Horticultural Society’s flagship show, once the preserve of rambling roses, delphiniums and kneeling pads has become contentious: secateurs are drawn. Only this week Alan Titchmarsh, Don’s predecessor as host on *Gardener’s World*, has warned the event’s judges against “pandering” to rewilding. Last year’s best in show garden had a beaver’s dam and a meadow that did little to showcase Britain’s “horticultural excellence”.

Rachel de Thane, Don’s fellow BBC presenter, has said that killing weeds, now rebranded as “resilient plants”, is old-fashioned. There have also been complaints that *Gardener’s World* has “gone woke”. Does Don, 67, think the formal, manicured garden is dead? On Zoom, in his blue cotton jacket, rugged cords and scarf, Don looks wilded, but he agrees with Titchmarsh that a tangle of weeds and twigs is not a garden.

Don says he has become a fan of weeds. “Our biggest weed at the moment is lesser hogweed, actually it’s rather beautiful, but it spreads voraciously so needs managing. That’s true of a lot of weeds, within limitations they are acceptable but if they dominate that’s different.”

A garden needs structure, he says. “The connection of rewilding, weeds, nature and natural gardening is both incredibly welcome and potentially confusing and distracting. I didn’t think the winning garden last year was a garden, which by definition is a man-made space and a reflection of ourselves.” His parents’ generation, he says, “fought through the war. All they wanted was to come back, mow the lawn and dig the border. They were desperate for order and harmony, certainty and peace. We, who are blessed with not having lived through wars now want more wildness but not neglect.”

Don says there has been an upsurge in houseplants. “That’s because the young haven’t had much chance to connect with the outside world. They can’t afford houses with gardens, but even in a flat-share, on a window sill, they take solace from growing things. It moves me, our love affair with plants.”

The TV presenter has championed organic gardening but says: “Gardens are an expression of mankind’s interaction with the natural world and it’s a subtle dance, a play. Chelsea is just reflecting the zeitgeist. But we don’t want to be too extreme. Garden centres won’t become a thing of the past, gardening is part of our sense of identity and connection.”

He is more circumspect about tightly mown lawns, once as English as striped pyjamas. The No Mow May campaign is causing mayhem; Twitter is in uproar about dandelions and daisies sprouting along the roadsides.

“Artificial grass is an aberration — there is not a good word to be said for it. If I were king, I would outlaw plastic grass. It’s the opposite of gardening, it cuts us off from the natural world.” Don cuts his grass rarely. “But I do understand the luxurious feeling of walking or lying on a freshly cut lawn. You just need to let some grow long to benefit insects, bird and amphibian life. It’s not binary, everything doesn’t have to be a fight.”

No one, he thinks, should dictate how your garden looks, least of all TV presenters. “It’s like saying you can’t have puce curtains in your home. If you tell me, ‘I like my annuals in straight lines’, three cheers for you.” His weak spot is cricket. “I can’t have too many cricket pitches. My problem is golf, it’s pseudo countryside, so micromanaged, like ski resorts and unnatural. But I don’t feel aggressive about it.”

He does think that all gardeners need to worry about climate change. The Dons have three greenhouses but are turning down the winter heating. “It’s not consistent with sustainability. We’re now getting extreme drought, wet and cold. We need to find plants that can cope outside.”

Water is also increasingly an environmental concern. “Plants need water, but we need to plant so we use minimal use and capture the maximum amount of rain. I have lots



Monty Don, at home in Longmeadow,

of water butts but we ran out last summer, plants died. In Greece, almost all the houses have cisterns underground. It’s a good idea.”

Don doesn’t want to encourage Britain to return to its prehistoric roots. “Beavers are an interesting debate but they are not compatible with gardens, full stop. It’s the same thing with upland farming, turfing out all the sheep and planting forest. This idea that there is a pure state to which we can return is nonsense, most of our trees were cut down by the time of the Norman invasion.

“There is nothing wrong with reintroducing beavers in the right places and I would even say the same about lynx and wolves. But to take them into gardens makes an interesting idea absurd.”

Nor is he a purist insisting on native plants only. “It’s a bit parochial, which Ice Age do you want to stop at? There is no evidence that snowdrops are native. Chestnuts, sycamores were all introduced. You just need a substantial proportion of native plants because the symbiosis of insect, bacterial, bird and fungal life has evolved through time. Take our simple native flowers: they are very accessible to our bees, while some exotic flowers need to be pollinated by a humming-bird.”

Our gardens, he says, are full of our colonial past. “Plant hunters roamed the world. One of my ancestors was a plant hunter. For generations the more interventionist and exotic a

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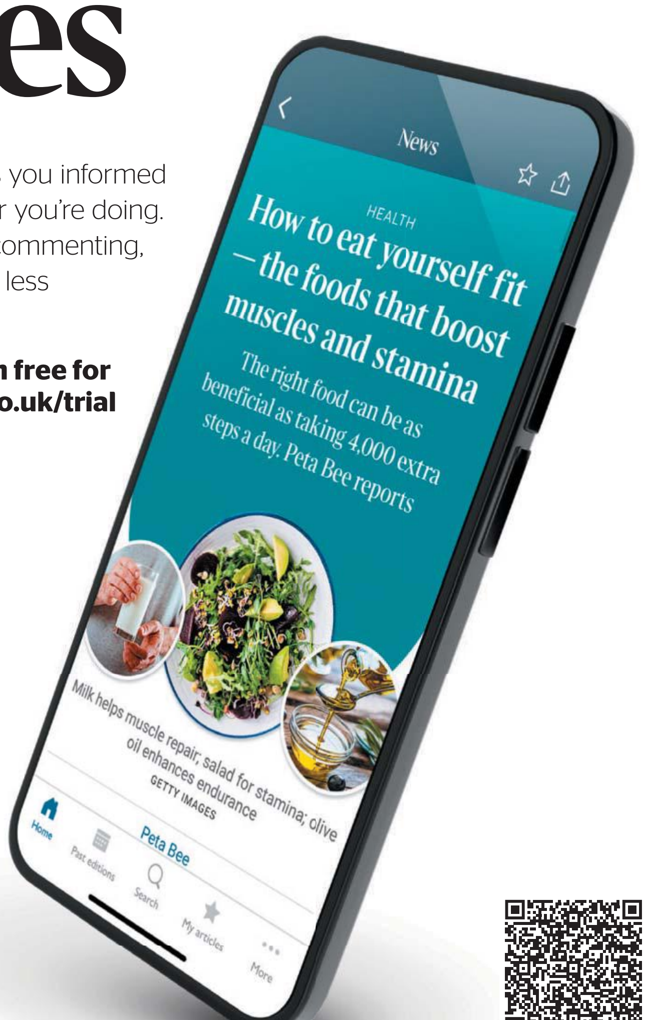
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if I were king, I would outlaw it’

JASON INGRAM; MARSHA ARNOLD





says gardens and dogs, like Nigel his late, lamented pet, improve mental health

garden was, the more skilled owners were deemed. Now it’s good that we value our native primroses as much as more exotic dahlias, but we don’t need culture wars, just beautiful gardens … gorgeous balanced resilient plants in a healthy ecosystem.”

Don doesn’t feel that his views have changed radically since he started gardening as a teenager. “I was seen then as being a dippy hippy for eschewing too much physical or chemical intervention. Now, I’ll be criticised for not being radical enough.”

He’s a fan of the King and knows Highgrove’s borders and wild flower meadows well, swapping ideas with Charles. “He was derided, now he’s mainstream.” Councils, however, have never understood horticulture, Don says. “I am not the chaining myself to a tree type but I would make a fuss about all the trees being chopped down by plodding councils. We have got our priorities wrong, the role of trees in our lives are crucial.”

Although a farmer himself, he realises that some cause problems, cutting hedgerows and poisoning rivers. But he is convinced that the younger generation will farm more sustainably. “The rewilding projects on the big estates like the pioneering Knepp in West Sussex have been fascinating. They are clearly good people, it sounds churlish to criticise but the only ways it’s viable is if you have thousands of acres and money so for most people it’s irrelevant, a distraction. We are putting far too much time and energy into discussing something that is a really for the highlands of Scotland or a large estate.”

Food security, however, is essential, says Don, a former president of the Soil Association. “No government will take it seriously but we need our farmers to provide healthy, nutritious, hopefully organic food so we can be more self-sufficient. I also want to encourage allotments and vegetable gardens. In the war it made a significant contribution, it connects us to the seasons and soil.”

Labour has just announced that it is considering introducing a right to roam in England if it wins power. Don says: “In Scotland or Wales, where you have moorland and mountains, it makes sense. But where you have a crowded area, walkers have to deal with gardens, stock and growing crops. A few days ago, someone walked through our farm and left a gate open — 200 sheep came and ate our trees. Footpaths should certainly be more accessible but we need to look at the implication of right to roam. Dogs will have to be kept on leads. Even if you think your dogs don’t chase sheep and cattle, they can become agitated.”

Without any formal horticultural training, just an obsession with plants, Don has become the gardener’s David Attenborough, crossing the globe in his search of horticultural gems. “I am an amateur gardener and a professional writer and broadcaster.” He adds: “There are probably 100,000 amateur British gardeners who are superb at what they do and another million who are really good.”

He feels that, as for many people, gardening soothes, calms and relaxes him. Don went to a bleak boarding school at seven, was diagnosed with cancer at ten, and his sister was in a horrific car accident in their teens. Then in the 1980s economic crash, his costume jewellery business with his wife, Sarah, went bust and they had to start from scratch, buying a derelict farmhouse and muddy field in Herefordshire that they turned into paradise for their three children. “Childhood has made me work very hard and obsessively,” says the man who ignored a stroke in his fifties, he was so committed to his programmes and books.

He has been remarkably frank about his bouts of depression. “I’m very British in that gardens and dogs help me. I have probably visited more gardens round the world than anyone and I cannot stress too much how the British love of gardening is unique: it’s part of our psyche, it is how we best express and console ourselves.”

Don has a theory for our passion. “It’s because we industrialised so early, we lost our visceral connection to the land and all that was channelled into our gardens.”

It’s the same with dogs, he says, trying to explain the wave of national mourning after Nigel’s death. “Dogs give true unqualified love that can’t be sullied. Other societies are at one remove from their pets but we tend to treat them as family and they connect us again with nature.”

Although Don has always tried to be optimistic, he says the past decade of political strife and pandemic tested him. “I deal in gardens, they ease grief and anxiety and they create solace. But we need to sow seed for the next generation. It’s not about the angle of the secateurs, it’s about nurturing our land as well as our children and communicating with nature.”

Gardens special, Weekend

Montagu Denis Wyatt Don

Born July 8, 1955

Education Studied English at Magdalene College, Cambridge

Career Founded Monty Don Jewellery with his wife in 1981. By 1989 he had written several gardening articles, which led to a gardening column for The Mail on Sunday. He landed a gardening segment on This Morning in 1989. Between 1994 and 2006, wrote a weekly gardening column in The Observer. Hosted various gardening series including Real Gardens, Lost Gardens, Fork to Fork and Don Roaming. In 2003, took over from Alan Titchmarsh on Gardeners’ World, which he continues to host. In 2014, he became the lead presenter for the Chelsea Flower Show coverage. He was awarded an OBE in 2018 and has written several bestselling books.

Family Lives with his wife, Sarah Erskine, in Herefordshire. They have two sons and a daughter.

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My Week Suella Braverman*

Monday
Britain is in real trouble, and I blame experts and elites. Because it's thanks to them that our kids are becoming transgender and woke. And it's also thanks to them that immigration is making British people forget how to be lorry drivers and butchers.

"So we need more people," says the MP Miriam Cates, who is with me backstage at this National Conservative conference thing we're having.

"And also," I say, "fewer people."

Something is nagging at me about this.

"Fewer immigrant people," clarifies Miriam. "More British people."

"If only there were some way," ponders Jacob Rees-Mogg, who is here, too, "of turning the one into the other."

Then Miriam says that her plan is for us to grow our own people. Which I worry might take a while, although Jacob says you can actually do it surprisingly quickly.

"More babies," says Miriam. "That's the point. We get more lorry drivers and butchers by getting the ones we already have to have babies."

"No!" I shout.

"With their wives," clarifies Jacob.

"I mean, yes!" I shout.

Tuesday
And now I'm calling Boris Johnson.

"Sorry not to see you there," I say, pointedly.

"We'll have to meet up next time," says Boris, vaguely. "Lovely people, great climate."

"Boris," I say. "Do you know what I'm talking about?"

Boris says presumably one of his holidays.

"No," I say. "The conference. The one against experts and elites. Which was full of your supporters. Who were all desperately hoping you'd come."

"Ah well," says Boris. "Um. Terribly busy. Kids. Moving house. Blasted book to write. And whatnot."

"Don't worry," I say. "I'm sure nobody thought you were taking them for granted."

"Yes, it's great, isn't it?" says Boris. "They never do."

Wednesday
Rishi away in Japan so the Deputy PM Oliver Dowden has been doing PMQs instead. "DID YOU THINK I DID WELL?" he says, afterwards.

"Stop shouting," I say.

"I CAN'T," he says.

"Look," I say. "You were fine. But I don't understand why you didn't mention this brilliant conference we've been having, all about taking Britain back from the smug elite."

"The thing is," says Dowden, finally getting control of his voice, "I wasn't actually invited."

"Yeah well," I say, smugly, "it was pretty exclusive."

Thursday
The cabinet are all obstructing my immigration plan. So I've called a meeting, while Rishi is away, to see if we can thrash it all out.

"It's horrifying," I say. "The experts and elites are winning. So we need to fight back. By stopping the boats."

Jeremy Hunt sighs. Then he says that stopping the boats won't help, because there are about twenty times more people who aren't even on boats.

"Maybe," says James Cleverly, "we need to get those people on to boats, too? And then stop those?"

"I mean that is literally our policy, yes," I say.

"Dear God," says Jeremy, quietly.

"Look," I say, "didn't you hear my speech? Keeping them out is only half the battle. We also need to make sure they learn British values."

"But won't that be much easier," says Grant Shapps, "if we let them in?"

"Anyway," says Jeremy. "What British values? Because you keep going on about how lazy we are."

"That's the point!" I shout. "British people don't have British values, either!"

Everybody frowns. "Honestly," I say. "Sometimes I think none of you even know what British values are. You're as bad as the Archbishop of Canterbury. Or the King."

Friday
Still not really getting anywhere with all this. So today I call Rishi in Japan and I tell him that it's time for him to speak out against experts and elites, too.

"I mean the numbers," I say, "are horrifying."

"You bet they are," he says. "Half a million? Every day?"

I'm not sure where he's getting these figures. But that's even more net migration than I expected.

"I'm not talking about immigrants," says Rishi. "I'm talking about the amount of money that the Sunday Times Rich List says I've lost this year."

"Yes, yes," I say, impatiently. "But what are you going to do about the elites?"

"Oh yeah," says Rishi, distantly. "Those guys. They sound awful."

according to Hugo Rifkind



T AUDIO

The underground bankers funding people smugglers

Whilst the government's controversial illegal migration bill moves through parliament, an untraceable and ancient banking system is being used to finance people smuggling across Europe and the Channel. So how does it work? And should the authorities crack down on 'hawala'?

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Pupils delete social media apps to boost GCSE marks

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Teenagers at an inner-city school have deleted social media during exams in an effort to improve their grades.

More than half of the GCSE pupils at Cumberland Community School in Plaistow, east London, agreed to give up Instagram, Snapchat and even WhatsApp. In total, 160 pupils in year 11 have deleted social networking sites from their phones for May and June while taking exams. Many have also agreed to hand in their mobile phones while in school taking exams to avoid distractions.

The school will monitor the impact of the initiative. It already runs compulsory revision sessions before and after school, plus weekend and holiday revision lessons.

Dania Olajide, 16, from Tower Hamlets, said: "Doing my mocks I was still on social media so I tried to balance revising with socialising. Now that I'm off social media I expect my grades to improve.

"This will be an interesting test to see if I do better than my friends who aren't giving up. I think I will. I spend a lot of time on Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat but so far I have not had many withdrawals. I read a lot, so now I just occupy myself when I'm not studying doing that. I think this is a great idea by the school because it pushes us to be the best we can be. They are looking out for us."

Amin Opayemi, 16, from Beckton, said: "I already feel like it has helped me and it's only been a few days. I have stopped procrastinating, checking my phone every five minutes while revising. Social media is highly addictive so you can easily get sucked in. You say you will just check your phone, then an hour has gone past and you haven't revised.

"It has massively helped to clear my head as well. Once I put it down for a few days the desire to pick it up started to leave me.

"I would advise all students who are serious about doing well on their exams to give this a try. It's only a few months and could make a huge difference to their futures."

The school will measure the pupils' results compared with peers of similar ability who have not given up social media. Ekhlas Rahman, the head teacher, said: "As adults, we know what a time-thief these social networking sites can be. For teenagers the temptation is even stronger.

"If you are tweeting or posting or WhatsApping you are not revising. We predict it is going to make a huge difference, possibly an entire grade point in each subject. We are always looking for an extra edge to give our students the best possible chance of getting strong grades. We have had the children in every day at 7am studying for their exams and they are here after school every day until 4.30pm."

He added: "Newham is one of the poorest boroughs in the country so most of our parents cannot afford a private tutor, so we provide it free, every day."

The Community Schools Trust runs the school. Its chief executive, Simon Elliott, said: "I am very proud of what these students and this school is trying to achieve. It takes a lot for a young person to step away from the crowd. They are pioneers."

Air rage cases treble despite drink curbs

Peter Stubley

Passenger air rage incidents on UK airlines have nearly tripled over the past three years despite attempts to reduce in-flight drinking.

A total of 1,028 cases of disruptive behaviour were reported to the Civil Aviation Authority last year, compared with 373 before the pandemic in 2019, according to figures seen by Sky News.

The numbers, which include fights, threats to cabin crew, verbal abuse and drunken disturbances, have increased markedly since 2013 when only 85 such events were recorded.

While part of the increase is thought to be due to better reporting practices, airlines have previously claimed the problem is far more widespread because statistics only cover the most serious incidents that put the aircraft at risk.

It is also thought that mask requirements contributed to disputes with cabin crew, although most airlines dropped the rules last year.

Concerns over drunkenness on flights prompted a ban on drinking duty-free wine and spirits on flights in 2019. World Duty Free, which operates shops at UK airports, introduced rules requiring alcohol to be kept in sealed bags to prevent bottles being opened until an aircraft lands.

Gareth Johnson, the Conservative MP for Dartford, has proposed a law to ban violent and disruptive passengers from flying, similar to driving bans and football banning orders. Passengers can be banned by individual airlines, and they can be jailed for up to five years for endangering the safety of an aircraft or fined up to £5,000 for drunkenness.

A Department for Transport spokesman said: "There is already robust legislation and powers to deal with disruptive passengers, including bans, fines and removal from flights."

Boy abused by Schofield's brother: I feel numb to life

Will Humphries

The victim of the paedophile brother of Phillip Schofield said the three years of abuse he suffered had left him feeling "numb to life".

Timothy Schofield, 54, was jailed for 12 years after being convicted of sexually abusing a teenage boy. The victim told a sentencing hearing: "Before Tim was arrested, I felt I had no freedom."

In an impact statement read to the court by Robin Shellard, for the prosecution, the victim said: "I often felt panic, stress and fear. I felt like I was trapped in a loop of fear and anxiety of the abuse happening again.

"It was only after Tim was arrested that I felt safe. It was only after Tim was arrested that I felt free — free to be me, free to be happy, free to be relaxed. I feel more blunt, I feel more bitter, I feel numb to life. I know I should feel really happy or really sad but I don't have the ability to emotionally react to what is happening."



Phillip Schofield, left, said after Timothy was convicted "As far as I am concerned I no longer have a brother"

Schofield, a police worker from Bath, was convicted last month of 11 sexual offences involving a child between October 2016 and October 2019, including two of sexual activity with a child, after a trial at Exeter crown court. He admitted watching pornography and masturbating with the boy but claimed he did so only when the victim was over 16.

However, a jury found that the police IT technician had begun sexually abusing the boy years earlier, including coercing him into performing sex acts on him. Mrs Justice Cutts, sentencing Schofield at Bristol crown court, told him: "You exploited his innocence. He felt forced to do what you wanted, trapped and unable to escape. He felt he couldn't tell anyone and did not do so for many years. You took away his ability to be the teenager he should have been — carefree, relaxed, happy."

The judge commended the courage of the boy for reporting the abuse.

During the trial the jury was told that Schofield confided in his older brother, Phillip, 60, in September 2021 that he had "watched porn and wanked together" on one occasion with a teenage boy in 2020. The boy would have been over 16 at the time and so it would not have constituted a crime.

The court was told that the full extent of the abuse came to light two months later after the depressed boy spoke to two counsellors and the police were alerted. Timothy Schofield was arrested on December 3, 2021.

Phillip Schofield, in a police statement two weeks later, said his brother was "on the verge of killing himself" when he drove to his London home and confessed to having watched porn and masturbated with a teenage boy.

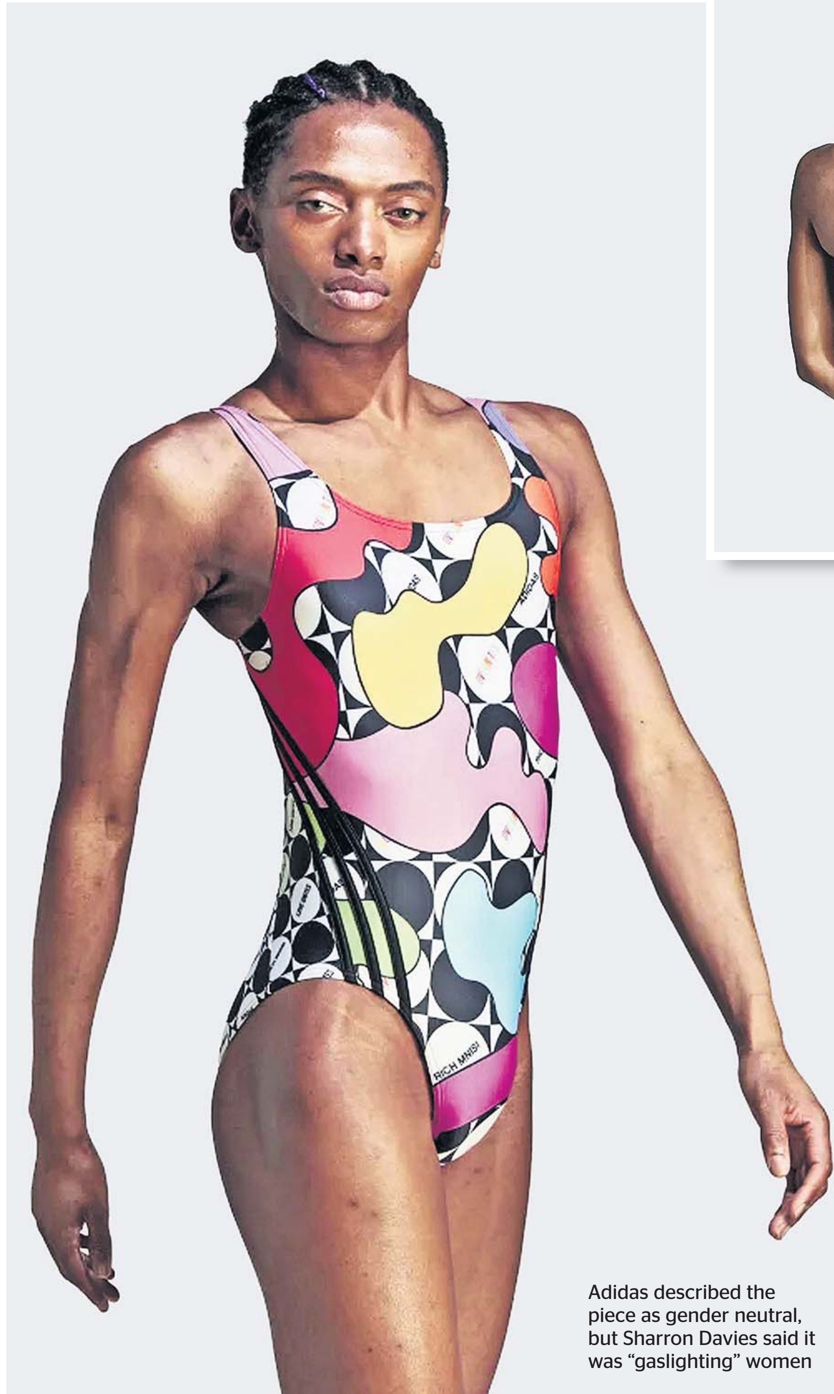
"I shouted that Tim had to stop," the TV presenter said. "I just didn't want to hear any of the details but it sounded like it was just one time. I said, 'Regardless of how it happened it must never happen again.' "

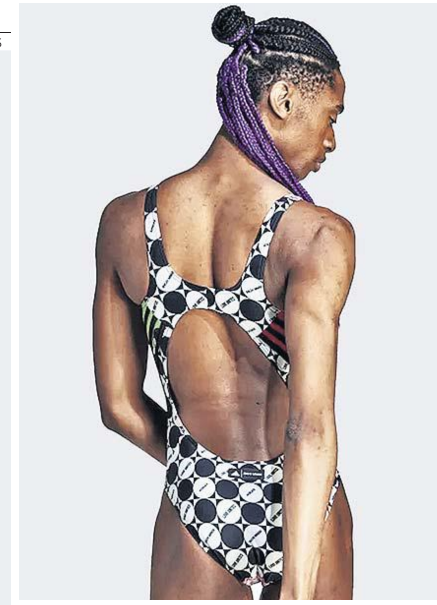
The presenter said that when his brother began to describe the boy's penis size, he replied: "F***, stop."

In a statement released by his lawyer after the guilty verdict, the host of ITV's *This Morning* said: "My overwhelming concern is and has always been for the wellbeing of the victim and his family." He added: "If any crime had ever been confessed to me by my brother, I would have acted immediately to protect the victim and their family. These are despicable crimes, and I welcome the guilty verdicts. As far as I am concerned, I no longer have a brother."

Timothy Schofield was convicted of three charges of causing a child to watch sexual activity, three of engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child, three of causing a child to engage in sexual activity and two of sexual activity with a child. Avon and Somerset police dismissed him from his job.

ADIDAS





Adidas described the piece as gender neutral, but Sharron Davies said it was "gaslighting" women

Adidas faces boycott call over Pride swimsuit ad

Women have threatened to boycott Adidas after the brand promoted a one-piece swimming costume using a model who appears to be male (Shayma Bakht writes). The 6ft 2in model, who has not been named, advertises a swimwear item which is described by Adidas as gender neutral, but campaigners criticised it for "gaslighting" women.

The swimsuit is from the brand's Pride 2023 collection, which was designed by the South African designer Rich Mnisi and is promoted by the British Olympic diver Tom Daley.

Adidas said that the recycled polyester outfit was a "celebration of self-expression, imagination and the unwavering belief that love unites, the collaboration explores fluidity, colour and pattern". It was not explicitly advertised as womenswear and has been listed on the website under the brand's gender-neutral "unitefit" sizing, which has been introduced to allow "neutral" clothes to be worn by both sexes through a unisex measuring system.

Women's rights campaigners have called for a boycott of the sports brand over the £50 item, with Sharron Davies, former Olympic swimmer, leading criticism online. Davies, 60, who has vocally opposed trans athletes competing against women in sports, tweeted: "And yet again a male gets paid to advertise a product that's vastly aimed at women, who are a physically different shape. Adidas, if you want to design a swimsuit for trans women, right on. They have different needs. But stop gaslighting women.

"It's more and more moving towards an absolute assault on being female and what that means to women who are having all their descriptive words and rights eroded."

The campaign is in partnership with Athlete Ally, a non-profit organisation that aims to tackle homophobia and transphobia in sport.

Helen Joyce, a campaigner from the group Sex Matters, said: "This is yet another example of a brand chasing cheap headlines by jumping on the trans bandwagon. I think Adidas will quickly find it comes at the high price of alienating its core customers."

Last month, campaigners called for a boycott of Budweiser after the company released an advert with Dylan Mulvaney, a transgender influencer, for its Bud Light beer.

The company's share price fell and other companies that previously partnered with Mulvaney received a similar backlash.

Disabled pedestrian jailed for killing cyclist loses her appeal

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A partially blind woman with cerebral palsy who was found to have killed a 77-year-old cyclist will not have her conviction overturned, appeal judges have ruled.

Auriol Grey was sentenced to three years in prison after she was found guilty in March of manslaughter by causing Celia Ward to fall into the path of a car in Huntingdon in 2020.

The jury at her trial was told that the motorist had no chance of avoiding Ward, a retired midwife from Wyton in Cambridgeshire. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge Sean Enright described Grey as a "territorial" pedestrian who had been furious that Ward was riding on part of the pavement she wanted to walk on. Disability rights campaigners criticised the sentence given to a pedestrian.

Yesterday, however, three judges at the Court of Appeal in London rejected Grey's argument that a prison sentence was excessive. Mr Justice Griffiths said that "a blameless woman had been killed by the unlawful act … with a devastating impact upon the family she left behind and others, including the equally blameless driver". He added that the original sentence "had to mark the gravity of the unlawful killing, as well as taking account of the mitigation available to the applicant. The sentence was not manifestly excessive."

At the original trial, at Peterborough crown court, the jury was told that the women had passed each other on a pavement. Video showed Grey shouting at Ward, telling her to "get off the f***ing pavement" and gesturing in a "shooing" motion. The women collided and Ward fell into the road and the path of a car. Grey went to help Ward, but was told to leave the scene.

Lawyers for Grey at the trial said in mitigation that she had been brain damaged at birth, had cerebral palsy and was partially blind.

At the appeal court, Grey's barrister, Miranda Moore, KC argued that the three-year jail sentence was "arguably manifestly excessive", pointing out that a psychologist's report showed that Grey also had autism, which the sentencing judge had not known. "This was a lady being sentenced as an aggressive and territorial pavement user," Moore said. "Having read this report, that is so much more understandable."

The appeal judges noted that the original judge had taken into account "the effect of a prison sentence on the applicant". They added that the judge had "placed very strong emphasis on her disabilities and their effect on her as mitigating features".

World

African nation becomes zombie

Russia is reaping rich rewards by infiltrating every aspect of life, writes **Anthony Loyd**



As the exorcism progressed to the swing of the thurible, swirling incense and tumbled words of prayer, a sheen of sweat gathered on the priest's face.

Monsignor Serguei Voyemawa crossed himself and placed his hands on the head of the young girl who sat bowed on a wooden stool at his feet, with flickering candles on each side. He had been summoned to drive out the evil spirits within her.

"Her parents told me that the girl was possessed, strangely sick and visited by phantoms in the night," he told me. It was the ninth of 12 similar sessions the child had undergone in the Saint André's Russian Orthodox church in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic (CAR).

As the last prayers ended, the child stood up, joining her parents and the priest to sing a hymn. They sang in French. The church was empty but for the icons, newly painted thanks to money from Moscow, staring down from frescoes on the walls.

I looked at the girl as she sang, wondering what had caused the suggestion of a devil inside. She stared back calmly and smiled, perhaps seven years old, red ribbons in her braids.

There was little unusual in the exorcism itself. They are no rarity in the CAR, one of the poorest nations on Earth, where a 63 per cent illiteracy rate, a culture of deep traditional superstition, and constant cycles of war across two decades have entrenched a fear of all that may be unholy in the minds of the populace: a land chosen by the Wagner Group for its most significant intervention on the continent.

More surprising was the priest's recent decision to swap his spiritual fealty to the patriarchate of Moscow and adopt a Russian name. After three months spent studying theology in Russia last autumn, and a further six weeks this year, Voyemawa is now the first priest in the country representing the Russian Orthodox Church.

Moscow has also paid for the restoration of his church and the renovation of the orphanage the priest runs beside it, where 67 war orphans aged between three and 13 years old receive basic Russian lessons as part of their syllabus.

Voyemawa's conversion and the renovations to his church are part of much more than traditional Russian theological outreach. In the five years since President Touadéra signed a bilateral military co-operation agreement with Moscow and received guns and mercenaries in return to back up his crumbling FACA army, the impoverished country has been penetrated at every level — cultural, military, political, economic — by a combined Russian military and influence operation led by the Wagner Group.

Using an upgraded version of counter-insurgency doctrine involving timber, blood, hearts and mines, and about 1,800 Wagner fighters, the model has been so effective in its takeover of the CAR that the country has become a zombie host barely capable of making its own decisions without consulting Russian mercenary chiefs.

A Russian veteran of the French Foreign Legion's parachute regiment who is nicknamed "The President" by diplomats advises Touadéra on security and runs the Wagner operation. Russian advisers are present in every leading CAR ministry. A radio station, Radio Lengo Songo, paid for by a Wagner-affiliated company, pumps out pro-Russian, anti-French messaging.

Local journalists are leant on to publish pro-Russian stories, or paid to do so with the promise of visits to Moscow. Russian-made vodka, Wa Na Wa, sold in sachets, has become a leading liquor brand. Gold, timber and diamond concessions are granted to Wagner-affiliated companies in return for men and munitions.

There is even a Russian move to push out the French brewer Castel, one of the last remaining large French businesses, and dominate the local market with a new brand of beer, Africa Ti L'Or. It is brewed in Bangui, but by a company owned by Russia's cultural attaché in the country, Dmitry Sytyi, sanctioned by the EU this year for his alleged Wagner links.

Pressure on Castel intensified last year before the launch of Africa Ti L'Or, when local social media platforms began claiming that it was funding rebel groups.

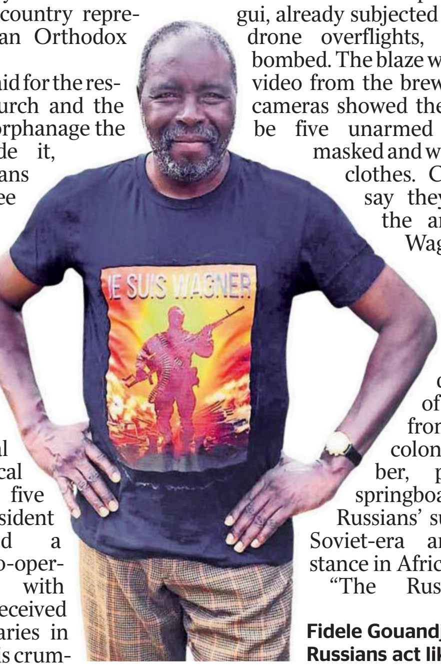
"It began with protests outside our brewery by local youths, along with the spread of disinformation, accusing us of financing the opposition," said Ben Wilson Ngassan, the communications officer for Mocaf, Castel's brand in the CAR. "Basically the message spread that if you drink Mocaf you are financing terrorism."

On March 7 Castel's premises in Bangui, already subjected to mysterious drone overflights, were petrol-bombed. The blaze was limited, but video from the brewery's security cameras showed the assailants to be five unarmed white men, masked and wearing civilian clothes. Castel officials say they are certain the arsonists were Wagner men.

A lingering antipathy towards France, which withdrew the last of its troops from its former colony in December, provides the springboard for the Russians' success, with a Soviet-era anti-imperialist stance in Africa still a factor.

"The Russians aren't strangers here," Voyemawa said. "They have been here for a long time. They never colonised Africa as the French did. They came to support Africans. It was the French who committed mistakes. But now the French speak of the Russians here as if they wanted to steal part of France."





Fidele Gouandjika: "The Russians act like us"

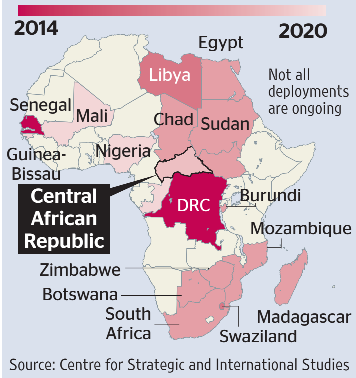
The priest is not alone in his sentiments. Contrary to western perspectives of the Wagner Group, many of the CAR's elite, sick of a stream of impotent United Nations peacekeeping missions, suspicious of colonialist powers and angry at France's inability to halt the cycles of violence, have welcomed the Russian mercenaries' intervention.

"Every week the Russians come here, or leave on rotation. Their name and origin are not our problem. Wagner, Beethoven, Mozart: it is all the same to us," said Fidele Gouandjika, a chief adviser to Touadéra. One of the richest men in the CAR, and fond of his "Billionaire of Boy-Rabe" nickname — tagged after the neighbourhood of Bangui where he was brought up — Gouandjika was effusive in describing the Russians' preparedness to socialise, and to fight and die in defence of his president.

"The French treated us like dogs," he continued, "but the Russians eat our food with us, they act like us, they go to our bars, our football matches, the cinema. And they fight and sometimes they are killed. Many are killed. They work very well and the people love them. We want to spread their message through the whole continent, so that the same model can help Africans elsewhere."

The Wagner empire

Earliest deployment of Russian mercenaries



Source: Centre for Strategic and International Studies

The Russian ambassador in Bangui, Alexander Bikantov, said in February that 1,890 "Russian instructors" were operating in the CAR, and confirmed that more had been requested. The Wagner force, headquartered in the crumbling palace that once belonged to the self-styled emperor Jean-Bédel Bokassa, 50 miles north of Bangui, has helicopter gunships and L-39 Albatross light attack jets at its disposal. An undisclosed number of Russians have been killed fighting the rebels, but the mercenaries' profits here could be huge.

The Ndassima mine complex north of Bambari, the largest-known gold deposit in the CAR, is already protected by Wagner and under Russian control. A leaked US diplomatic cable recently cited a possible $1 billion profit from the mine, if exploited to its full potential.

The Russians have also proved savvy in dividing the rebel groups opposing Touadéra, sometimes by negotiation, sometimes by bullet. In January 2019, only months after the arrival of the first 175 Wagner trainers, the Russians brokered a peace accord between the government and 14 rebel groups, greatly reducing the scope of armed resistance.

Known as the Khartoum accord, it is still the CAR's most likely road map to peace, though a year after it was signed six of the signatories formed a loose alliance of armed opposition groups known as the Coalition of Patriots for Change and marched on Bangui. The Russians repelled them and went on to recapture swathes of territory for the government.

Gouandjika, who sometimes wears a "Je Suis Wagner" T-shirt, boasted that in just 12 months Wagner fighters had extended the government's control from 10 per cent of the country to 90 per cent. Those figures are exaggerated, but the trend is true.

By contrast, none of the previous missions in the country by French and African Union troops, nor the current deployment of more than 14,000 UN troops there, won back the territory the

Recognition at last for the forgotten victims of Hiroshima
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Former Superbowl stars ready to dream of glory again
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host for Kremlin mercenaries



ANTHONY LOYD FOR THE TIMES; BARBARA DEBOUT





The Wagner Group has captured hearts and minds across the CAR with its rejection of French colonial values and its apparent willingness to defend the people, celebrated in a memorial, right, in Bangui. Above: Monsignor Serguei Voyemawa is the first priest in the country to switch to the Russian Orthodox Church

government desired. "The Russians are the only force really willing to fight," a western observer in the CAR, speaking on condition of anonymity, told me. "The African Union achieved nothing here. The French tried, killed a ton of people, then started losing soldiers and finally pulled out. The UN is the UN: passive. Credit Wagner where credit is due: they fight."

Yet it takes more than fighting to stabilise a country. Though Wagner was successful in breaking the rebel threat to Bangui, outside of the capital the country is in disarray and its economy in rags. Of a population of 5.4 million the number of internally displaced people has risen to a record 722,000. A further 733,000 live abroad as refugees. The UN office for the co-ordination of humanitarian affairs estimates that more than 60 per cent of the population need urgent relief.

Numerous allegations of human rights abuses have accompanied the Wagner Group's counter-insurgency campaign, eroding the population's consent to the Russian presence. Credible reports by Human Rights Watch and the UN have cited the presence of Russian-speaking fighters in incidents of murder and torture.

The extent of the abuse is impossible to define. Amid the brutality of the civil war and the repressive climate of authoritarian rule, the fear of informants, surveillance, sudden arrest and "disappearance" is ever constant. Witnesses to killings seldom testify, and most victims of torture or rape stay silent.

Malik Karomschi, 46, a lawyer and human rights activist, said that he had gathered 377 testimonies of women raped or sexually assaulted by Russian personnel since the beginning of 2021. The most recent, taken five days before our meeting near a UN base in Bangui, where he arrived masked on a motorbike with a baseball cap pulled low over his eyes, involved a young woman arrested by a patrol in the city of Bambari and then gang-raped by six foreign soldiers.

"They were white, bearded soldiers. Russians. She was 24 years old," Karomschi said. He looked furtive. He showed me a picture on his phone of a 13-year-old girl who was raped by two white foreign soldiers the previous year, he said. Over the following days he sent other pictures too, while constantly moving locations to avoid arrest. He said that combined patrols of Wagner and the police had searched for him at his home on four occasions.

The photographs included one of a man with his hands cut off, another of a group of bound prisoners lying in the dust. Some showed bodies with their heads cleaved by machetes, or burnt corpses with tongues protruding.

Of dates, locations, names, or details of who saw what done by whom to who, there was almost nothing, although one group of mutilated corpses was captioned as having been killed by Russians in the prefecture of Haute-Kotto.

Beyond Bangui's city limits savage abuses were clearly happening, but too often the verifying details were blurred out by fear, the press of deep jungle and the sparsely populated reaches of distant savannah.

"It's a problem we all face here in trying to document abuses," a western diplomat told me. "We see the pictures too. But when? Where? Who?"

In Bangui itself, where the cycles of coup, counter-coup and savage rebel rampage have been broken by the Russian presence, many people claimed not to care much about reports of atrocity far to the north.

"We are proud of Wagner and the Russians," said Ngombe Nakele Nibani, 32, a history student at Bangui University, where a memorial to Russian fighters, weapons raised in protection of an African woman and child, stands by the campus perimeter.

"Sure, we hear reports of rape and killings far away from here. We don't know if they are true or not. But we do know that here in the city Russian fighters have brought us stability and the chance to study without fear."

PART TWO ON MONDAY:
The judge living under armed guard after daring to say no to the Russians
thetimes.co.uk

In the shadow of nuclear disaster, city life goes on

Ukraine
Marc Bennetts Nikopol

An air raid siren wailed relentlessly in the heat of the afternoon in Nikopol, a city in southern Ukraine. The danger of a Russian missile attack was very real, but just across the Dnipro river loomed an even greater threat — the ominous edifice of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station.

The largest nuclear plant in Europe, the Zaporizhzhia facility was seized by Russian soldiers more than a year ago. Since then, Kyiv and Moscow have accused each other of shelling that has frequently brought down the power lines vital to preventing its six reactors from overheating. The situation may be about to spin further out of control.

As Ukraine prepares to launch its long-awaited counteroffensive, there are concerns that an escalation in fighting in the Zaporizhzhia region, which Russia claims as its own, could pose an unprecedented risk to the Soviet-built facility. Russian forces have been enhancing their defences in and around the plant, including setting up firing positions on some of its buildings, the Reuters news agency reported.

Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), warned last week that there were "increasingly unpredictable" threats to the plant's security that could result in a "severe nuclear accident". Petro Kotin, president of Ukraine's Energoatom atomic energy company, has said that if the pumps stop working, "you will have from one hour and a half to three days, and you will have this meltdown". The backup generators have already come been used six times when power was cut by fighting.

In Nikopol, the authorities have distributed iodine tablets to be taken if there is a leak or an explosion. The tablets are effective against some forms of radiation poisoning, but locals were sceptical about whether they would provide much protection. "I don't think iodine will really help anyone if something serious happens," said Lyudmyla Hurikova, a middle-aged woman who has lived all her life in the station's shadow. "Tablets aren't going to save us."

Grossi gave his warning after Russia ordered the evacuation of civilians from nearby areas in response, it said, to an increase in Ukrainian shelling. Energoatom said Russia was relocating many Ukrainian employees to other areas under Moscow's control, which it said could result in a "catastrophic lack of qualified personnel" at the plant.

Tetyana, another local, said she did not want to think about the possibility of a nuclear catastrophe. "God forbid a shell should hit one of the reactors," she



Experts have warned of "increasingly unpredictable threats" to the plant

said. "We live right across from the plant but we had to move out and rent a flat further away because the building was shaking from the blasts."

Viacheslav Sobolev, who works for the Nikopol city administration, said plans had been drawn up to evacuate the population by rail and bus in the event of a nuclear disaster. "We've held drills," he said. "Everything is ready."

The reactors at the plant, which once provided Ukraine with 20 per cent of its electricity, have been shut down for months but could still overheat without power and qualified staff.

The crisis has rekindled memories in Ukraine of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, the world's worst nuclear accident. But for many locals, the threat of nuclear catastrophe is an abstract danger of less immediate concern than the relentless missile attacks by Russian forces on the other side of the Dnipro. "Honestly, I don't know a single place in the city that hasn't been hit by missiles," Sobolev said as he pointed out fresh shell damage.

The city's streets are quiet, homes boarded up. About 50,000 residents remain from a pre-war population of 115,000. "Where should I go?" Iryna, a shop assistant, asked. "This is my home town. My children study here. I have a job here. I don't have enough money to be able to leave."

Yekaterina, an elderly woman who was chatting to friends outside a bombed-out block of flats, shook her head when asked whether she was afraid of a nuclear disaster. "I'm not scared of anything any more," she said. "I'm used to this life now."

So far, despite the twin perils of missile attacks and radiation, the authorities in Nikopol have not recommended that the remaining residents leave for safer regions.

"Everyone who wanted to go has gone," Sobolev said. "Some of those who left have come back. Everyone decides for themselves.

"If people have work here but can't find it anywhere else, then they will stay and try to live their lives here." He paused. "We are all trying to live."

Assad welcomed back to world stage with a kiss

Syria

Abbie Cheeseman Beirut

President Assad of Syria retook his seat at the Arab League yesterday, officially ending more than a decade of isolation on the world stage in a development vehemently opposed by western powers and Syrian activists.

He was welcomed with a kiss on the cheek by Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince.

"I hope it marks the beginning of a new phase of Arab action for solidarity among us, for peace in our region, development and prosperity instead of war and destruction," Assad said in his opening remarks at the meeting in Jeddah.

Saudi Arabia, which previously backed the armed opposition trying to take down Assad's government, has engineered his re-entry into the regional fold. His regime has been accused of killing more than half a million people and displacing millions more.

For many of the people who have suffered at the hands of the regime, Assad's reintegration into the international community is seen as a slap in the face that will only embolden his brutality. "It feels as though history itself is being rewritten, erasing not only the collective suffering and injustice endured by countless lives but also the harrowing journey my own family has endured," said Wafa Mustafa, whose father, Ali, is one of the estimated 100,000 people who have been "disappeared" into Assad's torture-prison complex.

"The normalisation attempts cast a shadow over the voiceless victims and the relentless pursuit of justice," she said. "It is a crime against humanity."

Although the Arab League has been widely criticised as a toothless body, this development is momentous for Assad. A decade ago his seat was filled by a member of Syria's opposition as the league condemned members of his government as "war criminals" over its use of chemical weapons. The UN has confirmed that the regime used chemical weapons more than two dozen times during the war, despite its denials.

The US and Britain made clear their discontent with the regional normalisation of Assad's regime, and vowed to maintain economic sanctions.

Assad also received an invitation from the United Arab Emirates this week to attend the Cop28 climate conference in November.

West must continue to treat dictator as a pariah, leading article, page 29

REUTERS



President Assad, third from left, arriving in Jeddah to attend the Arab League after more than a decade away. Saudi Arabia had initially backed those trying to oust him

Recognition after a lifetime of pain for the Korean Hiroshima survivors

Japan

Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

Even after a lifetime, the story told by Pak Nam-ju is painful to hear — and the struggles she faced as a survivor of Hiroshima did not end with the horrors of the atomic bomb.

She was aged 13 and riding a tram with her little brother and sister when the bomb was dropped at 8.15am on August 6, 1945. She remembers the flash and the fireball, the dying people with ribbons of burnt skin hanging from their arms, and the oily black rain that fell over the city, spreading deadly radiation.

Like many other survivors, she experienced homelessness, destitution, and ill health throughout her long life. But Pak faced another challenge: the racial prejudice towards people like her who are ethnically Korean.

Her parents were from present-day South Korea, one family among millions of poor migrants from a peninsula under harsh Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945. After the war many of them remained in Japan, but as the broken city was rebuilt, its Korean population was at the bottom of the heap.

As many as 20,000 of the 140,000 who died in the bombing were so-called *Zainichi*, or Koreans living in Japan. Now, 78 years later, they hope to receive the respect they say is their due.

At the G7 leaders' meeting in Hiroshima this weekend Fumio Kishida, Japan's prime minister, will offer prayers to a monument dedicated to the Korean victims of the bomb. He will be accompanied by President Yoon of South Korea, a G7 guest, in a moment of intense symbolism.

It marks the mending of relations between Japan and South Korea after close to a decade of mutual bitterness and ill feeling, focused on the events of the colonial period. But it also represents a gesture of recognition for Korean bomb survivors whose sufferings are little known in Japan or further afield.

Japan's colonisation of Korea changed the peninsula for ever and engendered a burning resentment in many of its people that still lingers. Koreans were forced to take Japanese names, use Japanese in schools, and worship at Shinto monuments. Millions went over to work in Japan, some by choice, driven by poverty, others conscripted as soldiers in the Imperial forces or as labourers in mines, military shipyards and munitions factories.

After the Japanese surrender a minority stayed in Japan and are here still: the 290,000 North and South Koreans in Japan are the country's second-biggest ethnic minority, after the Chinese population. Overt racism, in the form of violent attacks or offensive epithets, is rare today but *Zainichi* have always complained of a subtler discrimination, which in the postwar period was crude and undisguised.



Pak Nam-ju, 19 at her wedding and 91 now, had to learn to live with prejudice

"Korean food uses lots of garlic, and the children at school would say, 'You stink,'" Pak, who is now 91, said. "I just told them they were idiots. But I struggled to get a proper job. In the end, I raised pigs. *Zainichi* Koreans could never get jobs as public officials. In the world of education, it was difficult to be accepted."

In 1957 the Japanese government introduced free medical care and regular check-ups for all those who were exposed to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But until court rulings in the 1970s permitted them to travel to Japan for treatment, the system excluded bomb victims living in Korea.

There have been other lingering enmities between the two neighbours, including the memory of the "comfort women": young Korean females forced into sexual servitude by the Japanese army. Families of South Korean labourers, like the ones who worked in Hiroshima's shipyards, have sued for unpaid wages. In 2018, South Korea's Supreme Court ordered Japanese companies to pay compensation to them, to the fury of Japan, which insists that all such matters were settled in a 1965 treaty.

The monument to the Korean victims at which Kishida and Yoon will pray has its own complicated history. It was erected in 1970 but until 1999 was outside Hiroshima's famous Peace Park, because of squabbling between Koreans affiliated to the North and South. As the plaque on the monument says: "The Korean victims were given no funerals or memorial services and their spirits hovered for years unable to pass on to heaven."

This week a group of bomb survivors travelled from South Korea on a pilgrimage to the monument. But the city is locked down by 24,000 police, and they are making no exceptions. Having come so far to pay their respects, the elderly pilgrims have been turned away.

Iran executes three men 'tortured into confessing'

Iran

Abbie Cheeseman Beirut

Three men accused of deadly violence against security forces during protests in Iran last year have been executed, drawing condemnation from rights groups who called their trials "shams".

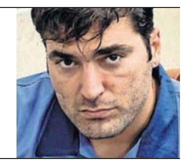
Saeed Yaghoubi, 37, Saleh Mirhashemi, 36, and Majid Kazemi, 30, were accused of killing a police officer and two members of the Basij paramilitary group when they were arrested in November. Human rights groups say that they were tortured into giving confessions and testifying against each other.

The men were among thousands of people who were arrested for taking part in the nationwide anti-government street protests provoked by the death of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the morality police. Their deaths bring the number of protesters executed to seven. Rights groups fear the number will continue to rise.

The Center for Human Rights in Iran claimed that the sole piece of evidence on which prosecutors relied when they sentenced the men to death in January were tapes of the forced confessions.

Nightly protests had been taking place outside the Isfahan prison, where the men were being held, calling for their release. On Wednesday the men smuggled out a handwritten note that said: "Don't let them kill us … we need your help."

Majid Kazemi said police threatened to kill his brothers and rape him



The father of Mirhashemi sat outside the prison holding a sign that read: "My son is innocent. He didn't have a gun."

In an audio recording from prison, Kazemi said that he did not own a gun and that CCTV pictures from his workplace would provide an alibi. The transcript of the call to his family details his torture and claims that police threatened to kill his brothers and rape him.

The families were granted final visits on Wednesday and state media began broadcasting their confessions, a sign that the executions were imminent.

Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, director of the Oslo-based Iran Human Rights, said: "Unless the Iranian authorities are met with serious consequences by the international community, hundreds of protesters' lives will be taken by their killing machine. These executions are meant to prolong the Islamic Republic's rule and only a high political cost can stop more executions."

Diana Eltahawy, Amnesty International's Middle East deputy director, said the executions were a "blatant act of vengeance" against a "courageous generation" of protesters.

Iran is one of the biggest executioners in the world, according to analysis by Amnesty International. There were 576 recorded executions last year, up from 314 in 2021.

While international pressure had been growing on Iran to halt the executions, reaction to their deaths from western governments was slow. The Norwegian foreign ministry condemned the killings and called for an "immediate halt to all executions". The Australian foreign minister also condemned the executions in the "strongest possible terms".

From Superbowl to superflops, the team ready to dream again

Alistair Dawber

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON

The biggest problem with being an avid supporter of a sports team is the hope, especially when the outfit you follow was once a titan of the game but is now there just to make up the numbers.

Fans of Everton Football Club, for example, will recognise the emotions felt by supporters of the Washington Commanders, the US capital's American football franchise.

Both were huge in the 1980s. They each collected a trophy cabinet full of prizes, boasting the top coaches and a squad full of the brightest talents.

The legendary players have long since been put out to grass, but the fans who remain get old, forever hoping that the glory days will return. Deep down they know that the team is terrible and what they really need is a miracle.

Commanders' fans have fresh hope, however. There's no miracle but a new owner who they dream will put an end to the miserable reign of Dan Snyder, who took over in 1999.

Snyder, who spent some of his childhood in Henley-on-Thames, has subjected the fans to nothing but pain and heartache ever since. The team is about to be bought for $6.05 billion by Josh Harris, a private equity investor who is paying the biggest sum ever splurged on a sports franchise.

It will mark the end of Snyder's ownership, a period marred by setbacks. By far the worst are allegations of a cover-up over sexual harassment claims by former members of the club's staff. In December a congressional committee published a damning report on the Commanders, which as well as detailing claims of sexual misconduct alleged that Snyder was responsible for a toxic work environment.

That same month legal representatives for the team called the report one-sided and said it did not reflect the progress made. But after the NFL levied a $10 million fine against the team, Snyder admitted that "the culture was not what it should be".

Athough the sale is still subject to crossed Ts and dotted Is, the news that Snyder was finally selling up delighted the Commanders' long-suffering fans. For years they have chanted "Sell the team" and "Impeach Dan", a uniquely Washingtonian way of communicating their frustrations.

The Commanders, known as the Washington Redskins from 1937 to 2019, won three Super Bowls between 1983 and 1992. Under their coach Joe Gibbs they became the best team in the NFL and, playing at Washington's RFK stadium by the Capitol building, became a global sporting superbrand.

Asked whether he believed things would improve under Harris, Barry Svrluga, who writes about the team for The Washington Post, said things could not get much worse.

"From a fan's perspective, the important thing is this was once one of the deepest and proudest fanbases in the NFL," he said. "It's not an exaggeration to say that in a town that is by nature fractured, it was one of the things that brought everybody together. For close to a quarter of a century the fanbase has been beaten into submission by misstep after misstep of Daniel Snyder's ownership."

At one point Snyder banned fans from taking banners and flags to the Commanders' unloved and crumbling stadium, the FedEx Field. He then got into a row with season ticket holders who tried to get out of contracts to buy their season tickets during the financial crisis of the late 2010s. More recently, the team took more than a year to settle on a new name when the Redskins was finally deemed inappropriate at the end of 2019, well after many observers argued the name should have been retired.

What is even worse in the eyes of many fans is the performance of the team. As Svrluga points out, this century it has won only one playoff game — the matches at the end of the regular season to determine which teams to go on to contest the Super Bowl.

Time will tell if Harris can stop the rot, but for most supporters he does not need to perform miracles. Their dreams are simple: a better team, playing in a new stadium that is capable of winning a Super Bowl. There is always hope.

BRIAN VILLANUEVA/IMAGE OF SPORT/ALAMY LIVE NEWS; ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES



Fans may soon have cause to join in with Washington Commanders' cheerleaders



Dan Snyder, with his wife, Tanya, is unpopular with the fans

Mallorca in a twist over pastries on planes

Spain

Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

A sweet, delicate coiled pastry with a history spanning more than 500 years is at the centre of a heated row.

Visitors to Mallorca will have seen Spaniards boarding flights laden with large hexagonal boxes of ensaimadas treated as carefully as treasured heirlooms, but anger is growing over airlines charging a fee to carry them on as hand luggage. The spat began last week, when Ryanair tried to charge a couple €45 each to travel with two ensaimadas. Fanned by politicking before local elections next week, the controversy now hangs over the polls like a cloud of icing sugar.

An "outraged" friend said that the Mallorcan couple gave the ensaimadas to airport cleaners instead of paying the fee. She said that airline staff had told travellers that the only way to board with ensaimadas and not pay extra was to buy them inside the airport, after passing security.

The Balearic island's government has called upon the airline and Aena, the Spanish state-owned airport operator, to let passengers fly for no extra cost with the pastries — and not only those bought inside Palma airport. It called the fee "unacceptable discrimination".

Jaume Alzamora, a candidate in the May 28 local elections, said Aena must allow ensaimadas to be taken to boarding gates, and demanded that airlines show "sensitivity" over the product.

The pastry is described in 17th-century documents as a food for fiestas. Experts believe its roots are Jewish, as a sweet bread prepared for the Sabbath. Today the most common ensaimada is plain dough sprinkled with sugar, but they also come topped with apricot and apple, or stuffed with pumpkin jam.

The Spanish pastries have a 500-year history



Beijing has last laugh as comedian held

China

Didi Tang Beijing

The small crowd of mostly young women took their seats in the dimly lit theatre, avoiding the first two rows as they waited nervously for the stand-up comedians to take the stage.

The midweek show in Beijing was one of the very few not to have been cancelled at the last minute after a popular comedian was arrested for telling a joke considered too close to the bone, and the anxiety among the audience was palpable.

They were there to watch three relatively unknown comics who quipped, safely, about television dramas, the wealth gap in China and generational stereotypes. "Careful, careful, and be careful again," one said repeatedly, an all-too urgent reminder of the importance of not offending audiences or creating controversy that drew awkward laughter from the crowd.

Indeed, the laughs were few and far between. Uneasy glances were exchanged as the paying punters desperately avoided interacting with those on stage.

Li Haoshi was arrested a day after telling a joke that loosely compared the behaviour of dogs to a military slogan. Li had recounted how he saw two ferocious strays that moved like cannon balls in a way that would be "excellent in style and capable of winning battles".

One man in the audience, later identified as a state journalist, complained on social media, because the joke borrowed from a phrase President Xi used to describe the goals of the People's Liberation Army.

The authorities launched an investigation and concluded that Li had "severely insulted the people's army and caused vile social impact". He now faces up to three years in prison and the company that hired him, Xiaoguo Culture Media, was fined 14.7 million yuan (£1.7 million).

The Chinese Association of Performing Acts responded by announcing an industry-wide boycott of Li, who performed under the name House, on the grounds that he had "wantonly altered the script as registered prior to his performances".

The severity of Li's punishment has threatened to sink a burgeoning industry in China that found favour with young people in particular as social media began allowing clips of stand-up routines.

The number of comedy clubs in the country has risen from single figures in 2018 to nearly 180 in 2021. By last year there were 1,500 full-time comedians working in China, up from fewer than 50 in 2014.

A breakthrough moment for comedy came in 2017 when Xiaoguo Culture broadcast *Roast*, a stand-up show that poked fun at daily life.

"Young people today are more inclined to be adventurous and express themselves through new channels like stand-up," Zhao Ruhan, a professor at the Communication University of China, told state media.

But as the popularity of stand-up comedy has grown, so too has scrutiny from the state. Yang Li, a comedian who derided Chinese men for being overly confident despite their ordinariness, was swiftly labelled sexist. Meng Chuan has been silenced after he expressed sympathy with the white paper protesters who took to the streets to demonstrate against Beijing's zero-Covid policy last year.

The jailing of Li, one of the industry's leading stars, could represent the final nail in the coffin.

They must be joking

"Men are mysterious. You can never guess what he is thinking in his little head. When men have a squabble with their girlfriends, they like to say, 'Can you not be so unreasonable but be more rational?' I want to ask, 'Bro, do you think it was because she was more rational that she decided to go out with you?' "
Yang Li, comedian

"It's so hard to rent a flat. We need to find agents and listen to them redefine a one-bedroom flat. I asked for a one-room unit, and this agent took me to a two-room unit, saying, 'It used to be a one-room flat.' I responded, 'It used to be grassland here.' "
Qiu Rui, comedian

"I have a stable job. I am a maths teacher. Doing stand-up is a hobby. I took up this hobby because there is a crackdown on cramming."
Wang Shiqi, comedian

World

Olympic star ‘shackled by Ceausescus after romance’

Romania

Oliver Moody

In the early hours of November 28, 1989, seven weary figures crept through the darkness towards Romania’s border with Hungary, led by a shepherd.

As they approached the border they had to take cover in a freezing ditch while the Romanian guards seized a man and a woman attempting an illegal crossing a hundred yards away.

Somehow they eluded detection. At dawn they stumbled across a milestone marking the end of Romanian territory and the beginning of their liberty.

One of the group was Nadia Comaneci, a former teenage Olympian widely regarded as the greatest gymnast of the 20th century. Days later she boarded a flight from Vienna to New York, in a defection to the West that landed a devastating blow to the dying communist dictatorship in her home country.

A book based on Comaneci’s secret police files suggests that her life in Romania had been made unbearable after a clandestine affair with the youngest son of Nicolae Ceausescu, the tyrannical autocrat who controlled the country for a quarter of a century until his execution less than a month after Comaneci fled.

Stejarel Olaru, a former national security adviser, said several retired intelligence officers who were charged with spying on Comaneci in the 1980s had confirmed that she had a romantic relationship with Nicu Ceausescu.

Olaru argues that this led Ceausescu’s wife, Elena, to impose draconian restrictions on her freedom for fear of the secrets she might divulge if allowed to leave the country.

Comaneci had taken the world of gymnastics by storm, becoming the first competitor to receive a perfect ten at the Olympics in Montreal in 1976. She was hailed as a national heroine and guarded around the clock by officers and informants for the Securitate, the regime’s security apparatus.

By the early Eighties, however, her career had been cut prematurely short after she fell out with her allegedly abusive coaches, Bela and Marta Karolyi.

Comaneci officially retired in 1984 and her movements were closely restricted, including a ban on visiting the West after 1985. In her 2003 memoir she described how she had felt like a prisoner in those years, denied the chance to travel despite her fame.

It had long been assumed that the regime prevented her from leaving Romania for fear she might give her minders the slip. However, Olaru believes that the primary reason was the Ceausescu family’s paranoia about her alleged relationship with Nicu.

Rumours of a short-lived affair circulated for decades, with some reports suggesting that the hard-drinking heir presumptive, who died of liver disease in 1996, was abusive towards her.

Comaneci, 61, who now runs a gymnastics academy in Oklahoma with her American husband, has previously denied that they were ever romantically involved.

Olaru claims in his book *Nadia Comaneci and the Secret Police*, which was published in Romania two years ago and has been translated into English, that several former Securitate officers had confirmed the relationship and Elena Ceausescu’s fears. “They told me [she] was concerned that Nadia, if she fled to the West, would have made confessions about the Ceausescu family during meetings with western intelligence officers,” Olaru said. “Therefore Nadia was considered a vulnerability.”



Nadia Comaneci fled to the West in 1989 and now lives in Oklahoma



SOTHEBY’S

Leg work Louise Bourgeois’s Spider, one of six she cast in 1996, has sold for a record $32.8 million at Sotheby’s in New York

Stop weaponising race, says Trump rival

Alistair Dawber Washington

Tim Scott, a senator from South Carolina, has joined the race for the Republican presidential nomination, swelling a crowded field of candidates hoping to end Donald Trump’s grip on the party.

Scott, 57, has toured the states that will hold early primaries next year and plans to run television adverts in Iowa and New Hampshire next week. He filed the formal paperwork yesterday and will confirm his candidacy in a speech in his home town of North Charleston on Monday. He is expected to sell an optimistic view of America’s future.

The only black Republican in the Senate, he nonetheless rejects the idea that racism is embedded in American society. Instead he insists that those who disagree with his views on race are trying to “weaponise race to divide us”, and that “the truth of my life disproves their lies”.

During a visit in February to Iowa, which holds the first Republican presidential caucuses, Scott spoke of a “new American sunrise”, adding: “If you wanted a blueprint to ruin America, you’d keep doing exactly what Joe Biden has let the far left do to our country for two years.”

Although Scott’s story will resonate with many in the Republican Party, he faces an increasingly large number of rivals and a party that is still largely in hock to Trump. A poll for Premise this week showed the former president with 57 per cent support among Republican supporters.

Ron DeSantis, Florida’s governor, who is expected to declare his candidacy formally on May 29, was in second place with 22 per cent. Scott was listed as having zero per cent.

He often speaks about growing up in North Charleston, a much poorer neighbour to the city of Charleston a few miles away. Raised by a single mother, Scott describes himself as a lacklustre student, graduating from Charleston Southern University with a political science degree before opening an insurance business that made him millions of dollars.



Tim Scott is the only black Republican in the Senate

Forgotten investors’ handbook turns into a real… investment

United States

Will Pavia New York

The book *Margin of Safety* offers “risk-averse value investing strategies” for people who want to make money by buying stocks that are cheaper than they ought to be.

Anyone wanting to read it, though, will have to set these strategies aside, while trying to get their hands on a copy. The book by the hedge fund manager Seth Klarman was priced at $25 when it was published in 1991. It is now hard to find one for much less than $2,000. A signed first edition is offered on a book trading website for $11,500.

The copy owned by the New York Public Library is held at the main branch, like an early religious text or a first edition of *Pride and Prejudice*, to be viewed by appointment. In the Toronto Public Library, readers are allowed to see a photocopied version of the text while the edition itself is kept in a secure location.

The book’s transformation from a little-noticed title to a sought-after collector’s item has come as its author, Klarman, has developed a reputation as one of the most successful money managers in the country.

All the while he has said very little in public. Like the author JD Salinger, or the Smiths after their break up in 1987, he showed little inclination to treat his fans to an encore.

James Grant, Klarman’s friend and the founder of Grant’s Interest Rate Observer who wrote a blurb for the cover of *Margin of Safety*, recalled that it had a print run of 5,000 copies that caused barely a ripple, and disappeared “like a stone in a lake.”

In his blurb he had written: “Seth Klarman is a brilliant investor who has written a brilliant investing book. Consider it his gift to your net worth.”

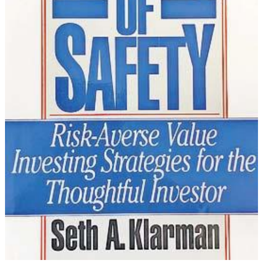
With the benefit of hindsight, he ought to have written: “Don’t sell this book,” Grant said. He cannot remember a launch party, at least not one that he was invited to, though “I dare say Seth could have afforded it even then”, he said.

Klarman continued running the Baupost Group, the hedge fund he had founded in 1983, fresh out of Harvard Business School, which started with $27 million from four wealthy families, including two Harvard professors, according to The New York Times, which conducted a rare interview with Klarman in 2007. The hedge fund’s annual returns, by this time, averaged 19.55 per cent, in nearly 25 years.

By then the book was more in demand. Warren Buffett was said to keep a copy on his desk. Applicants for posts at top investment firms were advised to have read it, or at the very least to pretend that they had. “You win serious points for talking Klarman,” one told Businessweek.

Grant said a couple of years ago that Klarman “was weighing a sequel and chose not to do it”. Instead, Grant and Klarman edited a new edition of *Security Analysis*, the tome that first set out the principles of “value investing” in 1934. “There is a new one coming out in June,” Grant said. “Seth alone has edited that. I can infer that he is not doing that for the money, having endowed a building at Harvard Business School, but he is a dedicated student of the craft.”

Grant still has his own copy of *Margin of Safety*, though he also recalls a conference in the early 1990s when he gave the book away. “I’m not sure if you get credit in heaven for unintended good acts,” he said. “It was the most generous act of my career, or it turned out to be.”



A signed first edition has been offered for $11,500

Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100 7,756.87 (+14.57) ▲

Dow Jones 33,426.63 (-109.28) ▼

COMMODITIES

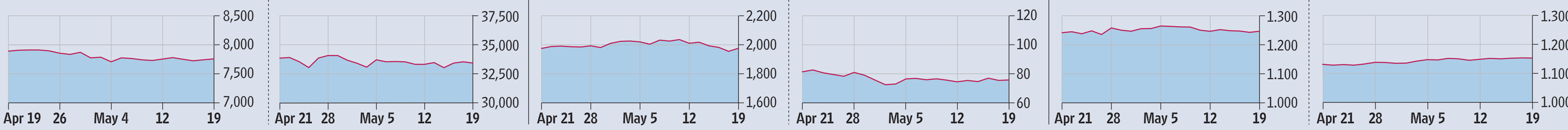
Gold $1,976.03 (+20.58) ▲

Brent crude (6pm) $75.73 (+0.09) ▲

CURRENCIES

£/$ $1.2465 (+0.0039) ▲

£/€ €1.1523 (-0.0007) ▼



Banks create war rooms to study turmoil from a US debt default

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent
Ben Martin Banking Editor

"War rooms" have been established inside several of the world's largest banks as the United States runs the risk of running out of money to pay its bills by June 1.

Negotiations over a deal designed to avoid catastrophic default on the US federal government's debts were suspended yesterday, escalating fears over the looming threat of financial turmoil. Wall Street fell into the red, with the Dow Jones industrial average closing 0.3 per cent down at 33,426.63.

President Biden will cut short a planned overseas tour, flying back from Japan and returning to the White House on Sunday, amid concern over the debt ceiling showdown.

Janet Yellen, the US Treasury secretary, has warned repeatedly that an unprecedented default would unleash an "economic and financial catastrophe", putting jobs at risk and piling pressure on markets. The federal government has been taking "extraordinary measures" to meet its obligations since January, essentially moving money around to buy time.

The clock is ticking. Senior Republican leaders, now back in control of the House of Representatives, have demanded spending cuts in return for their support for lifting the debt ceiling. Biden initially was reluctant to negotiate "under the threat of default."

A comprehensive debt ceiling was adopted in 1939, imposing a statutory maximum of debt the US government can issue. Increases, extensions and revisions require the approval of Congress.

JP Morgan, the largest US bank, has convened weekly "war room" meetings to discuss the risk of default, its boss Jamie Dimon told Bloomberg this month, adding that it was likely to switch to daily meetings if no resolution had emerged by this weekend.

Another banking boss said it would be "catastrophic" if talks failed. His firm had teams looking at the implications for markets.

Nancy Vanden Houten, at Oxford Economics, estimates that America could make it to mid-June without default. The last-minute nature of these discussions was not unusual, she noted.

Troubled Revolut has eye on EU

Fintech faces hurdles on UK banking licence

Ben Martin, Katie Prescott

Revolut is considering a plan to bolster its presence in France or Spain as the financial technology group's longed-for British banking licence looks increasingly in doubt.

Bosses at the London-based business believe it would be prudent to set up another regulated entity in western Europe to support its growth there, whether it wins the UK licence or not.

Any sign that Revolut, last valued at $33 billion, might drift away from London would be a blow to the government's hopes to make Britain a global hub for technology.

France and Spain are the most likely jurisdictions because both countries have made overtures to the company. Revolut already has a banking licence in Lithuania and from the European Central Bank.

A Revolut spokesman declined to comment on potential plans in Europe and said: "We are a British company and London is our home."

It emerged this week that its ambition to secure a UK banking licence from City regulators was in question. The government is expected to hold a meeting with Revolut bosses in the next few weeks, at which the company's place in ministers' wider plans for economic growth are likely to be discussed.

Nik Storonsky, the Revolut chief executive, has been critical of Britain as a place to do business, saying this month that there was "very little action" about making the country a technology and science superpower.

Revolut, considered one of the crown jewels of Britain's financial technology industry, was valued at $33 billion at its last fundraising round in 2021, making it one of Europe's largest fintech businesses. It has more than 28 million customers worldwide, including more than six million in the UK.

It was founded by Storonsky and Vlad Yatsenko in 2015 as a cross-border money transfer business and is now involved in everything from cryptocurrency trading to pet insurance.

The company has been dogged by turbulence, however. A string of executives have left Revolut in recent months, including James Radford, its UK banking chief. Mikko Salovaara, the group's finance chief, is also leaving.

Revolut has attracted scrutiny for its overdue 2021 figures, which were filed at Companies House in March. In the accounts, BDO, the group's external auditor, raised concerns about the controls and procedures behind about £477 million of Revolut's £636 million in annual revenues that year.

A UK banking licence is key to its growth plans. Not only would it allow Revolut to expand its business in Britain by taking customer deposits and lending, but also it would bolster its international growth ambitions. Approval from Revolut's lead regulators at home would help it to secure the backing of watchdogs in other countries.

Revolut bosses were taken by surprise when it emerged on Thursday that the Prudential Regulation Authority had told the Treasury it was minded to reject Revolut's protracted licence application. Neither the regulator nor the Treasury commented.

EPA VIRGIN GALACTIC



Sir Richard Branson's Virgin empire has suffered a torrid year, but Virgin Galactic is planning its first commercial flight soon

Branson's wealth crashes back to earth

Callum Jones

Sir Richard Branson's personal fortune has fallen sharply after a torrid few years for his Virgin empire and the bankruptcy of its satellite launch business.

The British billionaire's wealth dropped by 42.6 per cent to £2.41 billion over the previous 12 months, according to the 35th Sunday Times Rich List. His ranking slipped from 44th to 77th.

Branson recently highlighted the impact of Covid-19 on Virgin Group, a sprawling network of businesses dominated by tourism — selling flights, cruises and holidays. It has spent almost two decades trying to launch a commercial space travel service.

The pandemic took "a big percentage of our net worth, maybe £1.5 billion," Branson, 72, told the BBC. "There was a time where it really looked like we were going to lose everything."

Virgin Orbit, the group's publicly listed satellite business, filed for bankruptcy last month after failing to secure cash to maintain operations. It had endured a series of setbacks, including a failed launch from Spaceport Cornwall this year. This month, however, Virgin's Galactic space tourism enterprise signalled it was on the cusp of a significant breakthrough: its first commercial flight is due to take place in late June.

Other notable fallers in the Rich List included Matt Moulding, founder and chief executive of THG, the ecommerce business. The fortune of Moulding and his wife, Jodie, is estimated to have dropped by £70 million to £630 million. THG has endured a tricky ride on the stock market since its September 2020 debut, as its shares fell sharply.

Mike Lynch, the technology entrepreneur and his wife Angela Bacares, saw their fortune drop by £136 million to £852 million. Lynch, 57, was extradited to the United States last week to face fraud allegations over Hewlett-Packard's $11 billion acquisition of Autonomy, the software company.

A 68-page special edition of The Sunday Times magazine is out tomorrow. It is also online at thetimes.co.uk/richlist.

● The head of Spaceport Cornwall, Melissa Quinn, will step down at the end of the month. On her watch, the site on the north coast of Cornwall secured its first spaceport licence and hosted the first rocket launch from British soil. Quinn described the decision as "one of the hardest of my life," and said her new job would be announced shortly.

Need to know

1 John Allan, the chairman of Tesco and a former CBI president, is to step down from his role after the supermarket said claims about his behaviour risked becoming a "distraction". Four allegations had been made against Allan, who also chairs Barratt Developments. Page 2

2 Around 116,000 households will see the cost of their mortgages jump by hundreds of pounds within weeks. In the worst cases, they could see their interest rate rise eightfold and their payments almost double if they do nothing when their fixed deal ends. Page 10

3 Revolut is considering a plan to bolster its presence in France or Spain as the fintech giant's longed for UK banking licence looks increasingly in doubt. Bosses at the London-based group believe it would be prudent to set up another regulated entity in western Europe. Page 45

4 War rooms have been established inside several of the world's largest banks as the US runs the risk of running out of money to pay its bills by June 1. Negotiations over a deal to avoid default on the US government's debts were paused yesterday, escalating fears. Page 45

5 Sir Richard Branson's fortune has fallen sharply after a torrid few years for his Virgin empire and the bankruptcy of its satellite launch business. His personal wealth dropped 42.6 per cent to £2.41 billion over the past year, according to the 35th Sunday Times Rich List. Page 45

6 The UK and EU have taken a "significant step" towards closer post-Brexit ties on financial services regulation, a Treasury minister said. The UK and the European Commission published a draft memorandum of understanding on regulatory co-operation in the sector.

7 Millions of customers of Nationwide will be given £100 cash payments after Britain's biggest building society reported record profits. The payments will go to 3.4 million customers who have both a current account and either a qualifying savings account or a mortgage with the lender.

8 The chief finance officer of Alphawave has stepped down after a delayed audit revealed profits at the semiconductor company were $7 million lower than previously reported. Page 48

9 Japan's benchmark stock index hit its highest level in more than 30 years after investors were encouraged by strong Japanese growth data. The Nikkei 225 index rose by 0.7 per cent to 30,808.35 points, its highest point since 1990. Page 49

10 A property vendor who sold Home Reit a large chunk of its estate also had business dealings with charity tenants responsible for almost 60 per cent of its rent roll, research by The Times has found. Christopher Downing said he sold £92 million of properties to the housing-for-the-homeless group, which he estimated to be a sixth of the stock. Page 50

One year on, M&S boss struts his stuff for the City

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The former boss of Marks & Spencer did what many doubted was possible: Steve Rowe began to turn around the fortunes of one of Britain's oldest retailers and dragged it kicking and screaming into the 21st century. But the trouble with fairy tales is that they end and investors were not sure whether Rowe's magic touch would last once he had passed the baton to Stuart Machin, his successor.

Next Wednesday it will be exactly a year since the former M&S food boss took charge of the company, a ubiquitous presence on high streets for decades, and he will present the first set of annual results under his leadership. City analysts and investors will be watching closely to see whether the "pace of change" at the 139-year-old retailer has continued at the same speed and whether Machin, 52, has plans to put his own stamp on the turnaround.

There should be no surprises when it comes to the numbers because M&S warned last year that it would take a hit from no longer receiving business rates relief, from its exit from Russia because of the war in Ukraine and because of inflation. It expects profits of about £415 million, with the consensus view of analysts at £425 million. The forecast is behind last year's £522.9 million and well behind the £1 billion pre-tax profit in 1998, when M&S was enjoying its heyday. However, it blows past the company's performance before the pandemic, when it was relegated from the FTSE 100 after years of falling profit. One analyst said it should be "a decent sales performance, offset by a slightly disappointing gross margin".

So the main focus will be on the transformation plan, which began in 2018 and is based around closing lossmaking stores, overhauling its clothing and homewares division and bolstering an already prosperous food business.



All eyes will be on Stuart Machin's first set of results

Machin reaffirmed this year that everything was on track after M&S hailed a strong "golden quarter", pushing up its shares, but he admitted that there was still a big job to do.

The chief executive, described by analysts as "sparky and energetic", spends his weekends visiting stores and often texts his boss, Archie Norman, 69, the chairman, with a list of things that they could be doing better. He is also quick to implement fresh ideas. After spotting a new coffee on a trip to Australia last year, Machin got his team to trademark it in Britain before introducing it into M&S cafés. "Magic" coffee — because apparently it possesses a magic ratio of coffee to milk — is now a customer favourite.

His main area of attention continues to be on shrinking M&S's store portfolio in the age of online shopping, a strategy that was in play before he took over. The company, which was founded in 1884, has 60,000 staff and more than 1,000 shops in the UK, as well as nearly 700 Simply Food outlets.

£415m
Expected annual profit
Marks & Spencer

The "rotation" programme, as it is known, "aims to create an M&S store estate fit for the future" by relocating or closing underperforming branches. M&S has about 247 full-line stores, but intends to reduce that to 180 by early 2026, closing 67 underperforming sites while opening more than 100 food shops.

Machin is adamant that stores are "still a big part of M&S" and he has injected more money this year into new ones across London and the north of England. He said the aim was for "physical and digital" to work together equally through click-and-collect and scan-and-shop, in which customers use their phones to scan and bag food.

Clive Black, an analyst at Shore Capital, the broker, said that "such work represents an acceleration of pre-existing plans, where M&S hopes to have completed the bulk of its present ideas by March 2026 — a pace that we have welcomed".

The problem is that M&S still has older stores with long leases, which means it cannot get rid of all the loss-making locations as quickly as it might have liked. Analysts also have said its store closure programme is likely to incur charges for the next eight and a half years.

M&S has a good reputation for high-quality and value-for-money clothing, but it had lost its way in terms of style as successive management teams failed to hone ranges that sat well with a broad customer base. As a result, clothing sales had been in long-term decline before the pandemic.

It has overhauled its clothing as part of its "never the same again" agenda under Richard Price, its divisional managing director, and Katie Bickerstaffe, 55, the co-chief executive, who set about delivering a clothing and home business backed by data and personalised customer relationships.

A strategy introduced in June 2020 to go from selling purely own-label brands, such as Autograph and Per Una, to stocking third-party brands, such as Hobbs, White Stuff and FatFace, as well as collaborating with younger labels, including Ghost, appears to be drawing in more, and younger, online shoppers. Nobody's Child, the womenswear brand and the first third-party label recruited by M&S — and in which it took a stake — is its bestselling external brand.

However, Tony Shiret, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, said there was a "lot of focus on getting third-party brands, which highlights they haven't got a lot of good products themselves. In Autograph and Per Una, there's no real marketing around them any more. The issue is that there is no DNA in the clothing, whereas in the food there is a strong brand. I think Machin hasn't fully decided what to do with [clothing] yet." He said the business needed to be careful that it did not alienate its core customers, aged 50 to 60, by targeting a younger audience.



M&S has attracted young women with

The company is also looking to improve performance in children's clothing, where it believes it has not been achieving its full potential, especially online. It believes this could become a £400 million business and has started to introduce partnerships with Clarks and Mamas & Papas.

Analysts believe M&S should be focusing on men's apparel, too, because it has an opportunity to build market share in the gap left by the collapse of

Post-Brexit deal on financial services edges closer

Times Business Reporter

Britain and the European Union have taken a "significant step" towards closer post-Brexit ties on financial services regulation, according to a Treasury minister.

The government and the European Commission have published a draft memorandum of understanding on regulatory co-operation in the sector.

The UK financial sector's previously unfettered access to the EU was largely cut off after Brexit.

An agreement on how financial regulators on both sides would communicate after the UK's exit had been expected in 2021. This stalled amid the long dispute over Northern Ireland's trading arrangements, but was unlocked by the Windsor Framework this year. The memorandum still needs political endorsement from EU states, but the UK and the commission aim to sign off on it once this has been achieved.

Andrew Griffith, the City minister, said: "This is just the first, yet significant step towards a more constructive financial services relationship between the UK and the EU, one that is built upon mutual benefit and in the spirit of co-operation. Our financial markets are deeply interconnected and this framework will mean we can engage with our partners in the EU, much as we do with other major partners, like the US."

The commission adopted the draft memorandum on Wednesday. It commits the two sides to "jointly endeavour to pursue a robust and ambitious bilateral regulatory co-operation in the area of financial services".



Mairead McGuinness says there is a spirit of mutual trust and co-operation

Mairead McGuinness, the EU's financial services commissioner, said: "The Windsor Framework allowed the EU and the UK to open a new chapter in our partnership. I am confident our relationship and future engagement in financial services will be built on a shared commitment to preserve financial stability, market integrity and the protection of consumers and investors."

A joint UK-EU financial regulatory forum will be created, similar to one that the EU already has with the United States. The EU said the memorandum "does not deal with the access of UK-based firms to the single market or EU firms' access to the UK market, nor does it prejudge the adoption of equivalence decisions".

MARKS AND SPENCER



its online fashions, but analysts warn it must not alienate its older core market

Arcadia Group's Topman and Burton in 2021.

At the end of last year it employed Mitch Hughes, the former Topshop Topman managing director, as director of menswear, replacing Wes Taylor, who had been in charge of menswear and childrenswear. Changes in its offering are yet to be seen, analysts say.

Shiret said M&S's online clothing division could be "extremely exciting". It was fourth behind Next, Asos and Boohoo in Britain, he said, and "if they could actually do it properly, they should be capable of being No1 online in the UK".

M&S's food prowess is based on innovation, with more than 2,000 new products developed over the year to September last year. However, with value at the front for consumers' minds during the cost of living crisis, the business has concentrated on getting its pricing right, to the tune of £100 million over the past three years, reducing its dependence on short-term promotions and multi-buy offers to focus on everyday prices and narrowing its price differential to broaden appeal.

Central to this has been the creation of the Remarksable Value range. However, analysts said it shouldn't focus too heavily on value because that was not what its core customers shopped at the store for — although they believe, too, that so far it has managed to find the right balance.

They have described its food delivery partnership with Ocado Group, a 50-50 tie-up launched in 2020, as an unhelpful drag on the business that will continue if things are not fixed. After a boom during the pandemic, it has fallen from favour since the end of lockdowns and this year reported a decline in annual sales for the first time.

The business's food supply chain, which is "less efficient" and has a "higher cost to serve" than its competitors, is a further area of attention. M&S has blamed this on a complex store and logistics network and a costly contract with Gist, its logistics partner.. Machin said things would start to improve because the acquisition of Gist last year meant it finally could "take control" of its supply chain and target £50 million in savings.

Black said that while M&S was "not yet the finished article, the assortment is well set, the merchandising improving quarter-by-quarter and it has a fit-for-purpose online capability … The group points to necessary, welcome and exciting structural development," he said.

How M&S has performed



1,035

UK stores including 700 Simply Food outlets

£6 billion

food revenue, £3.2 billion clothing and home revenue

65,000

employees

£523 million

profit

Nationwide gives customers bonus after record profits

Patrick Hosking

Millions of customers of Nationwide will be given £100 cash payments after Britain's biggest building society reported record profits.

The unusual payments will go to 3.4 million customers — those who have both a current account with Nationwide and either a qualifying savings account or a mortgage with the lender.

Nationwide is also introducing a new two-year savings product with a competitive interest rate of 4.75 per cent to share its success more widely with other members under a new Fairer Share programme.

It is very rare for building societies, which have no shareholders and are owned by the saving and borrowing members, to make cash distributions in this way. The giveaway could put pressure on rival societies to follow suit.

The payments will be paid in June directly into the accounts of members who qualified by the cut-off point of March 31.

Rising interest rates have fattened up margins for all financial institutions, including Nationwide, which reported a record underlying pre-tax profit yesterday of £2.23 billion for the year to April 4, up from £1.6 billion. Along with other high street lenders, it has come under pressure from MPs for failing to pass on base rate rises to savers rapidly enough. It reported a widening of its net interest margin from 1.26 per cent to 1.57 per cent. It said, however, that it had been quicker to pass on rate rises to savers than other institutions and that the total financial benefit to members had amounted to £1.055 billion in the year, up from £325 million last time.

The society also said it hoped the inaugural Fairer Share payment would be repeated in future. "The board intends to declare annual distributions, provided they would not be detrimental to the financial strength of the society," it said.

Nationwide is a financial mutual with a £272 billion balance sheet and 16.3 million members. It operates 630 branches and employs 18,000 people. Debbie Crosbie, 53, chief executive, said restricting the payout to current account customers who paid in at least £500 a month to their accounts was the fairest formula because they contributed more to the success of the society.

The other 13 million members with ownership rights will not benefit. Couples with joint accounts will receive £200 if they have the requisite mortgage and savings accounts. No one aged under 16 will qualify.

Qualifying savings accounts for the payout are those with more than £100 in them on any day in March. Qualifying mortgage accounts are those with more than £100 owed as of March 31.



Debbie Crosbie says those contributing most should benefit

Payout is not a one-off

Nationwide's £340 million giveaway is eye-catching and unusual (Patrick Hosking writes). The last time a building society handed out cash in this way was when the Britannia disbursed a "member dividend" in 2007 shortly before being taken over by The Co-operative Bank.

Most building societies claim they hand value to members by pricing mortgages and savings products more generously than banks, and the large ones calculate a notional value for this each year. But Debbie Crosbie, the new Nationwide chief, wants to go further, arguing that hard cash is the best way of demonstrating the merits of mutuality. Nationwide sees the payout as permanent as long as it is affordable, with Crosbie hoping to maintain the level at £100 a year.

The move could heap pressure on other societies to follow suit, though one rival building society boss argued that spare cash often could be better deployed offering new services to members. The Prudential Regulation Authority, though happy with Nationwide's payout, will be cautious. It requires societies to hold more loss-absorbing capital than banks because they have no shareholders to fall back on in an emergency.

High street retailers join calls over VAT perk for tourists

Isabella Fish

Some of the high street's biggest names are urging the government to "stop peddling" the idea that VAT-free shopping in the UK is only a "small, niche concern" for luxury goods businesses.

The high street retailers, including Marks & Spencer, Fenwick and Moss Bros, have joined recent calls for the government to restore the scheme, which allowed visitors from non-European Union countries to recover VAT on purchases and was abolished when Britain left the EU in 2021.

Luxury goods brands such as Burberry and Mulberry have warned that wealthy tourists are travelling to cities such as Paris instead as a result. Critics say the government has not wanted to reinstate the scheme as rich tourists and luxury companies are not the most important targets when it is trying to present itself as prioritising the poorest in society in difficult times.

Stuart Machin, 52, chief executive of M&S, said high street retailers and other sectors were also struggling. "The government needs to stop peddling the idea that this is a small, niche issue for luxury goods as that's a fallacy, it's much wider than that," he said. "It's an unnecessary drag on the recovery of retail and hospitality and another brake to growth in our economy. The chancellor should reverse the decision."

AstraZeneca chief keeps red flag flying

Alex Ralph

AstraZeneca should be a patriotic company in China that "loves the Communist Party", its head of business in the country has said.

Leon Wang, the FTSE 100 drugs group's China president and international executive vice-president, made the comments at an event in Wuxi, near Shanghai, to celebrate AstraZeneca's 30th year in China.

"Build a local, transnational company that loves the Communist Party and loves the country," Wang was reported to have said in his presentation to an audience of several hundred participants, with the words flashed across a screen behind him.

While many local companies have pledged allegiance to the Communist Party as President Xi has strengthened its social and economic role, such messaging is relatively unusual from firms based overseas.

AstraZeneca, Britain's largest company by market valuation with headquarters in Cambridge, declined to comment. The company increasingly has been looking to China for expansion. The country accounted for 13 per cent of its $44.3 billion total sales last year, up from about 5 per cent a decade ago, and has become its second largest market worldwide

Wang joined AstraZeneca in 2013 and holds several positions in local trade associations and other prominent organisations in China, according to the company website.

Sir Pascal Soriot, 63, AstraZeneca's group chief executive, recently returned from a two-week trip to China and enthused about the country, saying it was "hard to not be impressed by what you see. The progress that has been made over the last few years is truly impressive". He pointed to the growth in clinical trials and the "explosion of biotech companies that are coming up with new innovative medicines, new technologies".

The Anglo-Swedish company is exploring potential acquisitions in China, with Soriot saying "there is no limitation to this". It has signed three licensing partnerships in recent months.

Despite political tensions between Britain and China, Soriot said there was no sign of pressure from the West to discourage the company from making investments.

C&C boss quits after technology failure

The chief executive of C&C Group has stepped down after the London-listed beer and cider business admitted that a botched implementation of software would cost it about €25 million (James Hurley writes).

The maker of Bulmers and Magners said David Forde had left with immediate effect after it revealed that it had "encountered significant challenges, in terms of time, cost and customer service" with a software upgrade in a British subsidiary. The problems relate to planning software at Matthew Clark Bibendum, a drinks wholesaler.

"The implementation process has taken longer and been significantly more challenging and disruptive than originally envisaged, with a consequent material impact on service and profitability within [Matthew Clark Bibendum]," C&C said. Shares in the business fell by as much as 18 per cent after the blunder was announced and the stock ended yesterday down 22¾p, or 14.8 per cent, at 131p.

Reports in trade media in February suggested that C&C customers had been struggling to order stock for weeks at a time and some had resorted to using high street shops. C&C said service levels largely had returned to normal towards the end of March, but "continuing system implementation challenges, impacted by greater seasonal trading volume, saw a deterioration in service levels in April".

An improvement this month was being achieved at the cost of additional investment "ahead of a system fix being implemented to permanently restore service to normal levels".

Customers are said to have complained that orders were being cancelled and that when they had tried to reorder, they had been told stock was not available. In February The Morning Advertiser, the pub sector publication, reported that trade customers had been "panic buying" elsewhere at uncommercial prices.

Forde, 55, is a former managing director of Heineken UK. C&C said: "Having navigated C&C through the challenges of the pandemic, [he] has informed the board that he wishes to step down. He will cease to be a director with immediate effect but will be available to help to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities."

Patrick McMahon, 43, the chief financial officer, has been named chief executive. C&C said that, in addition to a one-off cost of €25 million to fix the software problems, there would be an increase in working capital costs in its 2024 financial year.



Source: Factset



GETTY IMAGES

David Forde, above, has left C&C Group after the cider maker admitted to software problems

Alphawave finance chief heads for exit as audit reveals a lower profit

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

The chief finance officer of Alphawave has stepped down after a delayed audit revealed that profits at the semiconductor company were $7 million lower than previously reported.

Trading in the shares of the London-listed chip designer has been suspended since early this month, after KPMG requested more time to complete its audit of the results.

At the time, unaudited figures were published suggesting that profit was up 44 per cent to $56.3 million, with revenue more than doubled. The board said it did "not expect any changes" in the audited version.

Alphawave had said the "principal reason" for the delay was to allow KPMG to bring in "additional procedures" as the group was much larger, having completed three "transformational acquisitions" in the year. A week later, it said that Daniel Aharoni, its chief financial officer, would be leaving the company after the publication of the results. Aharoni's target salary for last year was £866,000.

Those results were issued yesterday, after an additional request for more time from KPMG last week. They show that revenue for the year to the end of December was $185.4 million, $7 million lower than previously stated, and earnings were $49.3 million, down by the same amount.

Alphawave said the revenue adjustment "and associated balance sheet entries" reflected the reversal of the fair value of the deferred revenue acquired with OpenFive, one of its three acquisitions.

This is the second consecutive year that Alphawave has had to delay its required sets of annual results since listing on the London Stock Exchange in 2021. Last year it blamed "Covid-related staff absences" at KPMG.

Alphawave was founded in Canada in 2017 and its British headquarters are in London. It does not make chips, but develops the technology used to transmit data for use in artificial intelligence and driverless cars.

It was floated in May 2021 at 410p a share, valuing the company at £3.1 billion, and raised £360 million of new money while existing shareholders offloaded £856 million of shares. The flotation, handled by Barclays and JP Morgan, was seen as a vote of confidence in the London markets and crystallised a £71.5 million fortune for Tony Pialis, Rajeevan Mahadevan and Jonathan Rogers, the founders.

Aharoni, 49, Alphawave's finance boss since January 2021 who formerly worked at Barclays, Jefferies, UBS, Dresdner Kleinwort and Rothschild, sold almost £5 million of shares in the float. Shares in the company fell by 15 per cent to 101½p when it delayed the results last month, valuing the business at £700 million.

Short-sellers have targeted Alphawave since it was floated, although the bets on its shares falling have reduced. Kuvari Partners is the only investor with a disclosable short position, at 0.85 per cent, according to filings with the Financial Conduct Authority.

Alphawave said it had applied to the FCA for the suspension of trading in its shares to be lifted.

Pialis, 46, Alphawave's chief executive, said that the company had "delivered another set of strong results, doubling our revenue year-on-year while investing to support our growing pipeline and future revenue growth.

"During the year, we welcomed almost 400 employees from the acquisitions of Precise-ITC, OpenFive and Banias Labs."

Semiconductor funding plan 'is too little, too late'

Katie Prescott

The government's long-awaited plan for the future of the semiconductor industry faced immediate criticism after its publication yesterday.

Rather than focusing on expensive manufacturing, the document explored Britain's strength in design, research and sophisticated compound semiconductors, as well as working with other countries to ensure security of supply. It also emphasised the importance of microchips, saying that "semiconductors are the core component of all electronic devices and underpin our economy, national security and modern way of life".

It described them as "one of the five technologies of tomorrow … critical to the UK's economic and national security and to the strategic advantage we will secure on the global stage".

Critics said the strategy did not go far enough to ensure this would be the case, lamenting the low level of funding and lack of detail. In the next two years, £200 million will be put behind the semiconductor sector and up to £1 billion in the next decade.

Ben Barringer, an analyst at Quilter Cheviot, said the strategy was "a realisation of quite how late to the game the government has been in this sector. The fact it has committed £1 billion over the next decade is cementing itself as a laggard in the semiconductor world. Over the next five years, China will spend in excess of $143 billion and India has committed $30 billion. Put simply, the UK's effort is a drop in the ocean and is a case of too little, too late. It is a shame the country did not wake up to this industry sooner; as part of the EU, it could have at least had a seat at the table. However, now the UK is subscale."

The European Union has earmarked €45 billion towards making 20 per cent of the world's microchips in the bloc by 2030. At present it makes only 10 per cent. The United States is spending more than $50 billion.

Shortfall of £11bn from Covid loans

James Hurley

About £11 billion of taxpayer-backed pandemic business loans are in arrears or default, official figures show.

The government has paid £6.2 billion to banks to cover their losses on emergency loan programmes that were underwritten by the state.

Lenders have claimed a further £1.2 billion on the taxpayer guarantees that underpinned the loans, while £1 billion of credit is in default but not yet subject to a claim on a state guarantee and £2.6 billion is in arrears.

In total, £77 billion was lent through three Covid loan guarantee programmes. The largest scheme was the £47 billion bounce back loan scheme, with about 1.5 million companies each receiving loans worth up to £50,000.

Across the three schemes, £34.5 billion of outstanding loans are being repaid "on schedule", while £15.9 billion has been fully repaid by borrowers.

The government has said the loan schemes saved jobs and businesses amid the disruption to trade caused by the pandemic. However, the oversight of the programmes has been contentious, with allegations that too little has been done to tackle fraud.

An investigation by The Times last year revealed how the bounce back scheme had been exploited by recipients using the funding to illegally finance gambling sprees, home improvements, luxury cars and watches.

About 2.5 per cent of the bounce back loans, worth about £1.2 billion, have been marked as "suspected fraud". This does not include loans issued in error.

Dominic O'Connell

A rare example of Sir Humphrey outsmarting a corporate crusader



Even though it was first broadcast more than four decades ago, *Yes Minister* still best captures the popular view of civil servants: stuffy, hidebound and forever finding devious ways to frustrate their political masters. The sitcom's stereotype has been reinvigorated by recent run-ins between ministers — Priti Patel, Suella Braverman, Dominic Raab — and their departments, in which officials have been portrayed as forming a "blob". The blob is out of touch with the real world, lacks any speed of thought or action and certainly has no commercial acumen.

But that description does not sit well with civil servants at the Ministry of Defence and UK Government Investments (the bit of the Treasury that advises on corporate finance issues) who have been working out how to fix one of the great government procurement cock-ups — the sale of the MoD's housing estate to Annington Homes, a company led by Guy Hands, the financier. The ministry took on Annington in the courts and last week, to many people's surprise, won, although Annington will appeal. The fine print of the judgment reveals ministers and civil servants working hard on a knotty problem and executing a plan that required intricate legal manoeuvres, good City intelligence, ruthlessness and a degree of low cunning. It is cheering to see the stereotype upended.

The deal with Annington in 1996 was one of the last spasms of the privatisation programme of Sir John Major's government. The idea was to offload the MoD's housing, a vast estate of tens of thousands of properties. Not only would the Treasury make some money, but also the armed forces and their families would get better service.

There was considerable opposition. Unions, senior figures in the armed forces and even Conservative backbenchers were stridently against the plan. Michael Portillo, the defence secretary, pressed ahead and signed a £1.6 billion sale-and-leaseback agreement with Annington, a consortium led by Nomura, the Japanese bank. The driving force in the Annington camp was a then little-known Nomura banker called Guy Hands. Hands left Nomura in 2001 and Terra Firma, his investment firm, bought Annington from it in 2012.



It's not hard to see why it looked a good deal. Annington took ownership of the houses for 200 years, but the MoD got a big discount on rent, 58 per cent off for the first 25 years, with a renegotiation in 2021. Crucially, the ministry retained the responsibility to pay for the houses' upkeep. What its negotiators missed was that the housing market would take off. Annington had alighted on a goldmine, paying hefty dividends to investors.

A 2018 National Audit Office inquiry was scathing. Officials calculated that, in the first 21 years of the contract alone, the government had lost between £2.2 billion and £4.2 billion. Annington, meanwhile, had made annual returns of 13.4 per cent, not the 9.7 per cent assumed when the deal was done. What was meant to have been a brilliant privatisation turned into a long-dated disaster. Officials were also uneasy about Annington's tax affairs, as one internal document cited in the judgment shows: "Terra Firma has restructured Annington's holding company as a 'Collective Investment Vehicle', an aggressive form of restructuring which has avoided nearly £800 million of capital gains tax liability, which would otherwise would be payable … this is a source of ongoing embarrassment for MoD."

What could ministers do? There was no chance to revisit the terms with Annington until the rent review and there was no certainty that it would make things any better. What the judgment shows is that officials started thinking about how to spring the contract in May 2019, the year after the audit office gave its verdict. What if the government could use "enfranchisement" laws that give leaseholders the right, in some circumstances, to buy the freehold of their house? It would pull the rug out from under Annington's feet; it would give the MoD some leverage in the rent negotiations and possibly give the ability to buy back the properties at less than market value.

There was only one problem. Technicalities in the enfranchisement process meant the government could not do it itself. A loophole had to be found. A new company was set up, owned and controlled by the MoD and it took over the leasehold of a few properties for £1.

There was a further complication. While this plan was being made, the rent review was going ahead. Moreover, government advisers had picked up in the City that Annington was planning to sell itself as soon as the review was concluded. Should the government reveal its hand during the negotiations or wait until Terra Firma had found a buyer? The judgment reveals that civil servants fretted that any new owner would have to take on more debt and have less room for manoeuvre in future.

In the end the officials decided on a surprise attack. The day after the review was agreed, the ministry served enfranchisement notices for a handful of properties. Annington cried foul, tried to tempt the MoD with an offer of money to improve properties and in the end sought a judicial review. It challenged the MoD on several grounds; the judge dismissed all of them. Annington will appeal and the planned sale has been put on hold for the foreseeable future.

It is unusual to see civil servants outsmart such a wily campaigner as Hands. The modern Sir Humphreys should, however, temper their celebrations. There is little doubt that Hands will fight enfranchisement, with litigation likely to go on for years. If their legal gambit is a tactic to bring Annington back to the table, it might succeed, but in the meantime service families still suffer in substandard accommodation. The audit office's other finding was that the ministry had not properly carried out its responsibility to maintain the estate. How much better it would have been if civil servants had spent their efforts and legal fees on this, rather than unpicking a woeful deal from a generation ago.

Dominic O'Connell is business presenter for Times Radio

Nikkei hits highest since before lost decade

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

Japan's benchmark stock index has hit its highest level in more than 30 years after investors were encouraged by progress in debt ceiling talks in the United States and reacted to strong Japanese growth data this week.

The Nikkei 225 index rose by 0.7 per cent to 30,808.35 points, touching the highest level since 1990, when the country's economy and stock market entered a slow-burning downturn.

Global investors have been buoyed by speculation of a breakthrough in a long-running impasse over the raising of America's debt ceiling, which would prevent the world's largest economy from potentially defaulting on its international debts by the middle of next month.

Economic data from Japan this week showed that the world's third largest economy had grown faster than expected in the first quarter of the year, expanding by 1.6 per cent on an annual basis, far exceeding economists' projections of about 0.7 per cent.

There also are encouraging signs that Japan may have conquered its three-decade fight with deflation, as consumer prices figures showed that a key measure of inflation was still above the central bank's target. A closely watched measure of core inflation accelerated to 3.4 per cent from 3.1 per cent between March and April and remains above the Bank of Japan's 2 per cent target.

Japan's monetary authority is among the last in the world to maintain an ultra-loose interest rate and a quantitative easing policy as it has struggled to generate price pressures even as the rest of the world economy has been gripped by 40-year high inflation. The inflation numbers have fuelled growing speculation that the Bank of Japan will have to tweak its innovative bond-buying programme, which is designed to maintain the yield on ten-year bonds.

The Topix index, which includes the country's electronics companies, this week hit its highest point since 1990 and it gained another 0.2 per cent yesterday. Equity prices have been boosted by the steadily declining value of the yen, which reached its lowest point this year, helping the performance of the country's export-oriented technology groups. Both the Topix and the Nikkei 225 remain far below the peaks hit before the country's stock market crash in 1989, which heralded what has become known as Japan's "lost decade".

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The tangled web of Home Reit's

Alistair Osborne

A property vendor who sold Home Reit a large chunk of its estate also had business dealings with charity tenants responsible for almost 60 per cent of its rent-roll, research by the Times has found.

Christopher Downing, who has styled himself a "deeply unpleasant person" with negotiating tactics that can "stretch from fair bid, to brutal, to rapist", said he had sold £92 million of properties to the crisis-torn, housing-for-the-homeless group, which he estimated to be a sixth of the stock.

He also had ties to the directors of at least 13 of the charities on which the business is built.

The findings raise fresh questions about the oversight of the board, chaired by Lynne Fennah, and the role of the former investment adviser, Alvarium Home Reit Advisors, which floated the company in September 2020 and went on to raise £740 million from the City.

In particular, questions are being asked over whether Jamie Beale and Gareth Jones, the former managers, had any incentive to have so many dealings with Downing's properties or charities linked to him.

Home Reit's business model is founded on sourcing property portfolios from so-called aggregators such as Downing and letting them to charities on 25-year leases. They, in turn, house vulnerable people said to qualify for exempt housing benefit — a high-quality income stream underwritten by the taxpayer.

However, the model has imploded after November's attack by Viceroy Research, a short-seller. It triggered the suspension of Home Reit shares, raised questions over both the allegedly inflated price it had paid for its 2,473 properties and alleged payments to intermediaries and sparked an inquiry by Alvarez & Marsal, the consulting firm, into "allegations of wrongdoing".

Charities stopped paying rents, claiming vendors such as Downing had failed to make contractual renovations to run-down properties — the responsibility of the vendor under Home Reit's unusual business model.

On top, sources claimed some people who were housed were not eligible for the exempt housing benefit.

A central figure in this maelstrom is Downing, 64, the owner of Karla Homes, the social housing group. Downing understood that he could flip properties to the group at far higher prices if he could also line up a charity tenant. All he needed were charities to sign the leases: a network he dubbed his "Collective".

Downing began exploiting the opportunity before Home Reit's float. Companies House filings show that directors of many of its charity tenants already had business dealings with Downing, or that the charities had been set up only recently by people known to him.

One source said: "They are technically community interest companies and some weren't so much charities but special purpose vehicles." Together, charity bosses known to Downing accounted for 57 per cent of Home Reit's rents.

In April 2020, he sent the notorious email, first disclosed by The Times in March, to Jakob Kinde, the chairman of Noble Tree Foundation, responsible for 4.5 per cent of Home Reit's rents, and another individual.

"Your use is signing the leases, making sure that the vulnerable cohorts are protected", he wrote, adding that he was offering "a busted-up charity the opportunity to have 25-year and even longer leases on 95 properties" in the north. Remarking that the charities had a "covenant that could not lease a Ford Transit", he said: "You are getting both a 500k a year income stream and north of 300k in cash deposited in your bank account! Do you even stop to think how generous this is"?

His email, which he signed off "never ever f*** up" or "you will find very unhappy campers", also made a reference to "Peter" and "Gurpaal". They are thought to be Peter Mitchell, chief executive of Big Help Project, and Gurpaal Judge, controlling director of three Home Reit charities: Lotus Sanctuary, Redemption Project and Eden Safe.

Home Reit's response to the Viceroy attack showed that Big Help accounted for 9.1 per cent of the rent-roll. Lotus, which is now in voluntary liquidation, was its biggest tenant, paying 12.2 per cent of rents, with Redemption contributing 9.1 per cent and Eden 2.2 per cent.



Home Reit's Lynne Fennah faces questions on oversight

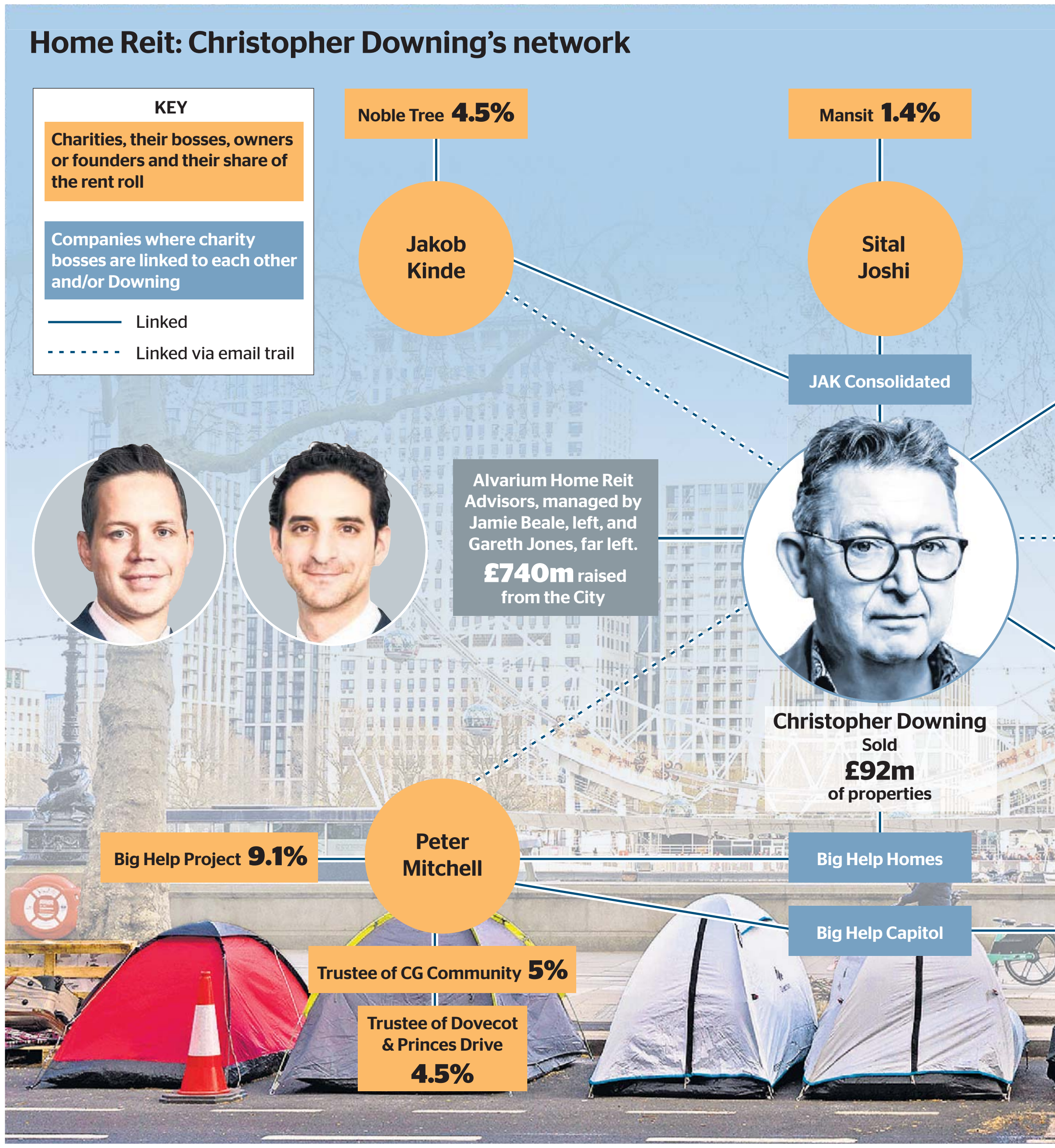
Downing said he had been introduced to Judge "in around 2018 when Mr Judge was working with another fund", but that he had "never worked" with him at Home Reit.

In a second email that was sent to Kinde in May 2020, Downing wrote: "I thought I made myself clear … I find the properties, your job is to sign the leases." He went on to add that those working with him needed to "understand from Gurpaal and Peter how to collect the rents and the additional income".

After Home Reit's float, Downing sent another email to his Collective in January 2021, which said how "flattered" he was to see such a familiar business model.

"In a world where a five-year UK gilt has a yield of -0.06 per cent", it was possible to achieve a "yield of 4.95 per cent for essentially the same covenant", he said, noting: "We source the product, we source the social renter, we keep our agents close and our social renters closer."

Downing says he first met Kinde "in around 2017". Companies House records show that a company previously controlled by Downing, JAK Consolidated, a waste management business,



Smiths relishes the direction of travel

Emma Powell

One of London's few remaining conglomerates has raised its annual sales guidance for a third time as travel recovers after the pandemic and as airports upgrade their technology in preparation for new security rules.

Smiths Group expects organic sales growth this year of about 10 per cent, up from previous forecasts of at least 8 per cent and more than twice the rate of increase it outlined in September.

The FTSE 100 engineering specialist's sales for the first nine months of the year rose by 13.4 per cent, helped by price increases and working through some large orders.

Those included a contract to upgrade the security scanners at Birmingham airport in preparation for the ending of rules from June next year that require passengers to remove laptops from hand luggage and to dispose of liquids greater than 100ml.

Smiths comprises a group of companies, including John Crane serving the energy industry, Smiths Detection producing security scanners for airports and Flex-Tek and Smiths Interconnect serving the construction, industrial, aerospace and semiconductor sectors. It was badly hit during the pandemic when coronavirus restrictions and changes in ways of working forced it to cut hundreds of jobs

In 2021 the company sold its medical devices division to ICU Medical for $2.7 billion, one of the longest-running unachieved disposals of recent times.

A better performance in three of its divisions in the third quarter offset weakness in Interconnect, which was hit by a fall in demand for semiconductor testing after a boom in the industry after the pandemic, which caused sales to decline year-on-year.

It said the Smiths Detection subsidiary had achieved a "particularly strong quarter" thanks to the timing of some big deliveries as the company catches up with its orders. Smiths Detection produces X-ray machines for security purposes, such as in airports and other high-security locations.

Paul Keel, Smiths' chief executive, said the third quarter had been "another strong quarter, building on the record performance we achieved in the first half. We've now delivered eight consecutive quarters of growth, enabled by our strategy of accelerating growth, improving execution and investing in our people."

Smiths Group shares rose by 6½p, or 0.4 per cent, to close at £17.11.

Extra time granted to bid for Network International

Helen Cahill

The bidding war for Network International has been extended after one of two private equity suitors was granted extra time to prepare its proposal.

Brookfield Asset Management now has until June 1 to decide whether to make an offer for the company. It has suggested a 400p-a-share offer that values the London-listed payments business at £2.1 billion.

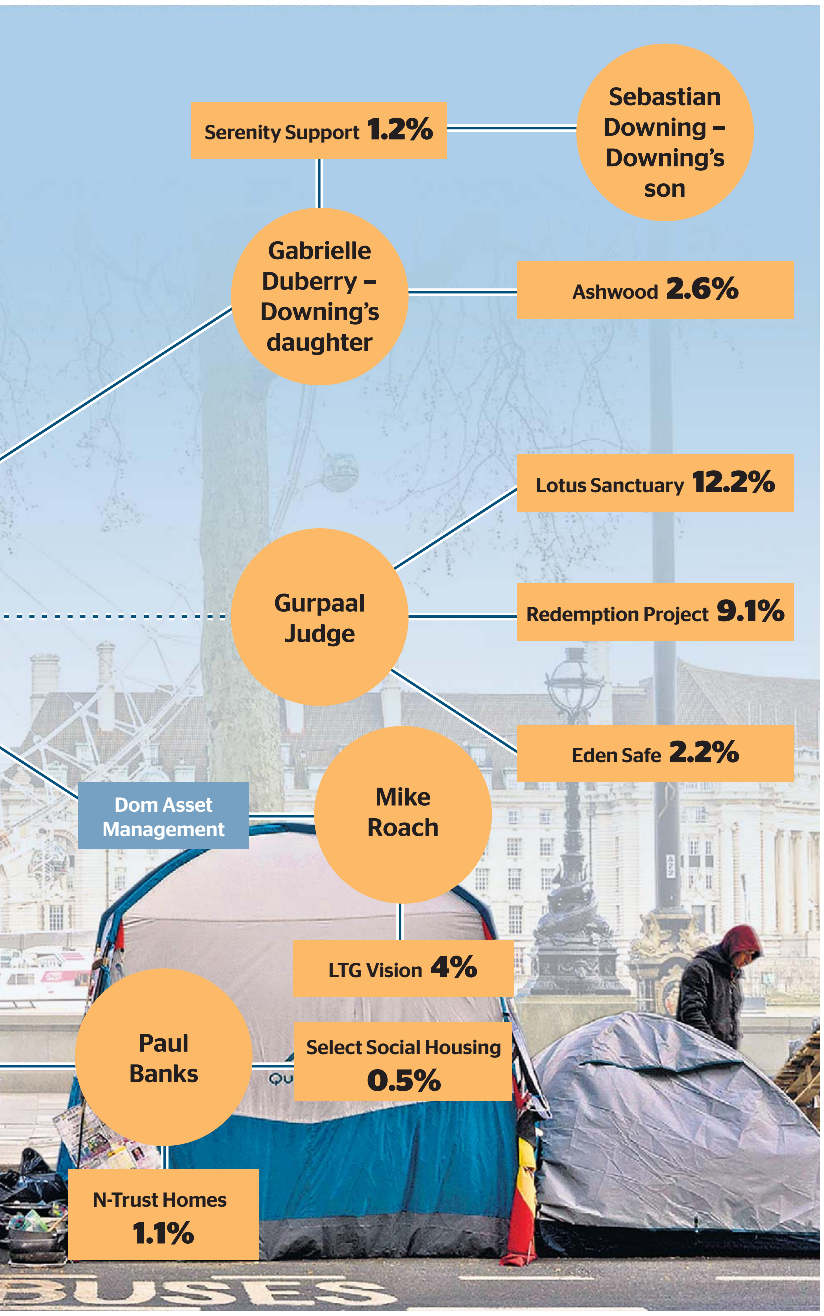
Network International said discussions between the two parties were continuing and that Brookfield's proposal was subject to the Canadian investment firm conducting proper due diligence before proceeding.

Brookfield's bid is competing with a joint 387p-a-share offer from CVC Capital Partners and Francisco Partners Management.

The Dubai-based Network International is a FTSE 250 company that focuses on emerging markets. It was established in 1994 as the payments division of Emirates NBD, Dubai's government-owned lender.

Schroders, which owns a 2.8 per cent stake, has warned that the bids received for Network International so far "materially undervalue" the company. The asset manager has said it would support only an offer that reflected the substantial cost savings that a bidder could drive through if it went on to merge Network International with another payments company.

property dealings



is now controlled by Kinde. A previous director of that company was Sital Joshi, a director of Mansit Housing, which paid 1.4 per cent of Home Reit rent. In February, after a falling-out, Downing petitioned to wind up Mansit.

Downing says he met Mitchell at 2018's Labour Party conference in Liverpool. Mitchell is also the joint owner of Big Help Homes CIC, a property manager where Downing previously was a director with a stake in the business. Mitchell and Colette Goulding, Big Help Project's assistant boss, are also trustees of CG Community Council, responsible for 5 per cent of Home Reit's rent, and Dovecot & Princess Drive, accountable for another 4.5 per cent.

A fellow director of another company where Mitchell is a director, Big Help Capital, is Paul Banks, with whom Downing first worked on a property deal in 2017. Banks is an owner of two more of Home Reit's charity tenants — N-Trust Homes and Select Social Housing — together responsible for 1.6 per cent of its rents.

Another charity, LTG Vision, which pays 4 per cent of Home Reit's rents, is run by Mike Roach, who was briefly a director of Dom Asset Management — a company now in liquidation but previously controlled by David Kingsnorth — the former finance chief of Downing's Karla Homes.

Two other charities, Serenity Support and Ashwood Housing, chipping in 3.8 per cent of Home Reit's rent, were founded or co-founded by Downing's daughter Gabrielle Duberry. A company owned by his son, Sebastian Downing, is now an owner of Serenity.

After various bust-ups, most of these charities are now at loggerheads with Downing, alleging that he owes them money. LTG Vision, for example, claimed that Karla, his company, owed it £5.5 million, saying he failed to refurbish its estate.

Downing, who now lives in a one-bedroom flat on the Venice lagoon, said such claims "lack any legal basis", that he has fulfilled contractual obligations and that "any monies paid" were for refurbishing or renovating properties.

He also said that he had voluntarily given "grants to the social renters of close to £20 million" for such work, while all sales had been "based upon independent valuations" by "highly reputable independent surveyors".

He added that any suggestion that he had ever made payments to Beale or Jones for signing contracts with him was "entirely false".

Beale quit in March last year for "personal reasons", with Jones stepping back last November for "health reasons". Both are thought to be central to Alvarez & Marsal's investigation.

Neither returned calls requesting comment. Home Reit declined to comment.

As for the investors, they have seen the shares suspended at 38p, ostensibly valuing the group at £300 million, with the board rebuffing a 40p-a-share takeover proposal from Bluestar.

Harcus Parker, the law firm, is preparing a class action suit, claiming that the company "has used investors' money in a way which runs contrary to what investors were told".

A key issue remains: in whose interests was it for the company's managers to have so many dealings with Downing and his charity network?

Gorman to step aside at top of Morgan Stanley

Ben Martin Banking Editor
Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

It's all change at the top of one of the biggest banks in the United States after James Gorman said he planned to step down as the chief executive of Morgan Stanley within the next year.

The exit of the Australian-born financier, who has led the Wall Street group for 13 years and has transformed it into one of the world's biggest wealth managers, will mark a turning point for the bank.

Gorman, 64, is credited with restoring Morgan Stanley's fortunes in the wake of the financial crisis of 2007 to 2009, when it came close to imploding. He has significantly expanded its wealth and asset management operations through the acquisitions of E-Trade and Eaton Vance, which have helped to reduce the group's reliance on its investment banking and trading businesses. Shares in Morgan Stanley have more than trebled in value since Gorman took the helm.

The stock yesterday dipped by 2.7 per cent, or $2.25, to close at $82.24, as investors digested the impending end of one of the longest tenures of a chief executive on Wall Street.

Gorman made the announcement at the bank's annual meeting. He said the board had identified three potential successors and that he expected to be executive chairman for an undetermined period after handing over to a new chief executive.

Ted Pick and Andy Saperstein, its co-presidents, and Dan Simkowitz, the bank's head of investment management, are considered by Wall Street to be potential candidates for the top job.

John Guarnera, from RBC BlueBay Asset Management, said Gorman had been "pretty clear in terms of establishing a bench that would be there to support him when and if he chose to leave", adding: "I don't anticipate any major change in strategic direction and I would think that the transition would be relatively orderly."

The timing has yet to be confirmed, although Gorman said "it is the board's and my expectation it will occur at some point in the next 12 months".

Morgan Stanley was founded in 1935 and has a stock market valuation of almost $140 billion. Gorman, who was born in Melbourne, started his career as a lawyer before working at McKinsey, the consulting firm, before joining Merrill Lynch, the bank.

In 2006 Gorman took a senior position in Morgan Stanley's wealth management unit. Three years later he was the mastermind behind the acquisition of Smith Barney, which helped to establish Morgan Stanley as a powerhouse wealth manager. He became the bank's chief executive in 2010 and was elevated to chairman in 2012.

However, his time in charge has not been without setbacks. Last month the bank said it was in talks with US authorities about resolving investigations into its block trading business. It was also among a number of banks that were penalised by America's regulators for their employees' use of unauthorised messaging platforms such as WhatsApp. It resulted in a $200 million fine for Morgan Stanley last year.

The bank has been a big backer of Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter and led the syndicate of seven lenders that provided the $12.5 billion debt financing for the deal last year. Uncertainty about the direction in which the social media platform will be taken and worries about Twitter's financial health have left the banks with debt, which ordinarily they would have sold on to other investors.

Gorman has remained a vocal supporter of Musk and in January he described the tycoon as "one of the greatest entrepreneurs".



James Gorman will serve as executive chairman after 13 years at the helm

THE TIMES

Business briefing

Stock markets across the world remain volatile following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Oil and gas prices have been spiralling, while British companies are scrambling to cope with the effects of soaring costs. With the situation changing by the hour, keeping up to date is essential. Get the latest news and market reaction by 8am, and analysis at 12.30pm, direct by email from the Business Editor, Richard Fletcher, and the Business News Editor, Martin Strydom.



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Snowball effect with new Vanquis exit

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The lender formerly known as Provident Financial is to break from its tumultuous past with the departure of its chairman, less than four months after announcing the impending exit of its chief executive.

Vanquis Banking Group said Patrick Snowball, 72, who has led the board since 2018, would step down this year.

The Bradford-based lender said at the end of January that Malcolm Le May, 65, was leaving and that it was scrapping the Provident name, used since it was founded 143 years ago.

Snowball's exit will cap a period of significant upheaval for the company, which was under pressure before he joined after a disastrous attempt in 2017 to revamp its doorstep lending business, which was the biggest in Britain. Within months of Snowball's arrival, it found itself on the receiving end of a hostile takeover offer by Non-Standard Finance, its smaller rival.

An acrimonious battle between the two companies raged during the first half of 2019 before Non-Standard Finance's takeover attempt collapsed. Then Vanquis was thrown into further turmoil when its doorstep lending division was hit by a surge in compensation demands from borrowers who claimed that they had been mis-sold high-interest loans.

The mounting financial pressure caused by these redress claims, as well as regulatory scrutiny of the business, prompted Vanquis to decide to wind down its doorstep loans division and to withdraw from high-cost lending altogether in 2021. This marked a significant turning point for the company, which had always focused on lending to borrowers with weak credit histories. It now operates as a less risky provider of near-prime and mid-cost credit.

Snowball will remain in place until his successor is found. He also will stay on to help with the handover between Le May and Ian McLaughlin, the group's next chief executive, who joins in July. The company's change of name took effect in March.

Snowball said Vanquis was "financially stronger than it was" when took up his role: "With a successful strategy in place, the transformation to a specialist banking group complete, and a new chief executive appointed, I am very confident in the group's future and feel now is the right time to hand over the chair's baton."

Vanquis's shares fell by 6p, or 2.6 per cent, to close at 224p.

Business

Future looks a bit brighter after boss puts his money on the table



Jessica Newman ***Market report***

The actions of those in charge at Future shunted the publisher back into the spotlight yesterday. Jon Steinberg, its new chief executive, was quick to snap up shares worth nearly £803,000 in the Marie Claire and Go.Compare owner in an effort to bolster shareholders' confidence — after spooking the market with a warning that its full-year performance would be "towards the bottom end of expectations".

Having hit a three-year low on Thursday in the wake of the warning, Future's shares enjoyed a rebound after Steinberg, 46, who took over from Zillah Byng-Thorne, 48, last month, bought 90,617 shares — for which he paid 886p apiece. His buying spree helped to soothe investors: Future's shares were up more than 5 per cent at one point in the session before closing the day up 16p, or 1.8 per cent, at 896p.

The wider markets, buoyed by an upbeat consumer sentiment survey and progress in talks to raise the debt ceiling in the United States, helped the FTSE 100 to snap a three-week losing streak. The index rose 14.57 points, or 0.2 per cent, to 7,756.87, which means that over the week it had eked out a gain of 2.25 points.

The FTSE 250 also has perked up of late, but it ran out of steam in afternoon trading, closing down 9.15 points at 19,289.10. It ended the week higher, up 100.73 points, 0.5 per cent.

Tracking a rising Wall Street , **Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust**, which invests in a number of American technology stocks, rose 13p, or 2 per cent, to 648p and **St James's Place**, the wealth manager, advanced 20p, or 1.8 per cent, to £11.45 as analysts at RBC upgraded their recommendation.

Higher oil prices put the prospect of a rise in fuel prices on the radar, which weighed on the airlines **Wizz Air** and **easyJet**, which dipped 167p, or 5.4 per cent, to £29.46 and 26p, or 4.9 per cent, to 502p, respectively. **International Consolidated Airlines Group**, the British Airways owner, gave up 3p, or 1.9 per cent, to 157¼p.

The impact of Foot Locker's kicking on Wall Street rippled across the Atlantic, causing **JD Sports**, the FTSE 100 sportswear retailer, to shed 13½p, or 7.8 per cent, to 159¼p. Foot Locker missed first-quarter estimates and cut its annual sales and profits forecast amid waning demand.

Knights Group, the law firm, delighted investors by revealing it anticipated revenues of £142 million for the year to the end of April, a 13 per cent rise on a year earlier, while underlying pre-tax profit is predicted to be about £21.5 million. Its stock responded with a 10p, or 11.8 per cent, rise to 95p.

Unbound Group is open to offers as the struggling minnow that owns the Hotter Shoes brand flagged that its trading environment had worsened in the first quarter. Weeks ago Unbound, formerly Electra Private Equity, told investors that Marwyn Investment Management had withdrawn its funding proposal because of concerns over trading. Yesterday's update sent the shares down ¾p, or 23.1 per cent, to a record low of 2½p.

Wall Street report

Republicans' decision to press the "pause" button on talks over America's debt ceiling sent shares in New York into the red, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 109.28 points, 0.3 per cent, to 33,426.63, but it was up 0.4 per cent on the week.

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Atelier

Fed hints at another rise in interest rates

The United States may need to raise interest rates further to get inflation under control, the chairman of the Federal Reserve said. Jerome Powell was speaking as markets bet that the central bank would pull back from its aggressive campaign and would keep rates on hold at its meeting next month. In carefully scripted remarks yesterday, Powell reiterated that it would make decisions "meeting by meeting", but he also said that after a year of increases, officials "can afford to look at the data and the evolving outlook to make careful assessments. We face uncertainty about the lagged effects of our tightening and the extent of credit tightening from recent banking stresses, so our guidance is limited to identifying factors we'll be monitoring as we assess the extent to which additional policy firming may be appropriate to return inflation to 2 per cent."

Rapper's footwear heads for sell-off

Adidas will start to sell off some of the stock from its defunct Yeezy partnership with Kanye West, the rapper, this month and will donate the proceeds to international organisations, the company said. The German sportswear group ended its Yeezy deal in October after West, the designer and rapper who now goes by the name Ye, made antisemitic remarks on social media. It has said previously that the abrupt end of the footwear contract had hurt its business, leaving it with £1.1 billion of unsold stock and a potential £500 million hit to operating profits this year. Bjorn Gulden, the chief executive, said: "We believe this is the best solution as it … resolves an inventory problem and will have a positive impact in our communities". Shares in Adidas fell €5.42, or 3.3 per cent, to €159.02.

Backward step is a blow for Foot Locker

Foot Locker cut its annual sales and profit forecasts and missed Wall Street's expectations in the first quarter after a sharp drop in consumer discretionary spending forced the footwear retailer to introduce heavy discounting to clear stock. Total revenue fell by 11 per cent to $1.93 billion in the three months to April 29 and net profits declined by 73 per cent to $36 million. The reverses sent shares in Foot Locker down by 27.3 per cent, or $11.32, to $30.20 in New York. Mary Dillon, chief executive, claimed it was making "early progress in building a strong foundation to return to sustainable growth", but added that "our sales have since softened meaningfully given the tough macroeconomic backdrop". Annual sales, previously forecast to grow by up to 8 per cent, are now expected to rise by between 3.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
BT Recovers some losses	3%
Aston Martin Lagonda Extends gains after Geely's stakebuilding	2.9%
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Tracks Wall Street higher	2%
Future chief executive buys £800,000 worth of shares	1.8%
St James's Place RBC upgrades to "outperform"	1.8%
Persimmon Victim of higher bond yields	-2.7%
Burberry Extends losses after disappointing results	-4.1%
easyJet Rising oil prices do not bode well for airlines	-4.9%
JD Sports Negative read-across from Foot Locker slashing guidance	-7.8%
C&C Financial hit from botched software change; chief executive quits	-14.8%

Deliveroo started as an innovator and plans to keep thinking outside the box

Will Shu disagrees with claims that technology businesses cannot succeed in Britain, reports **Katie Prescott**

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL



Will Shu has grown his business from delivering for a single restaurant in London to a global player in a competitive sector

Will Shu has been revising, mugging up on facts about the UK, such as that St David is the patron saint of Wales, that 0.9 per cent of the population is Sikh and that a great British pastime is going to the pub. The American-born founder and chief executive of Deliveroo recently took his British citizenship test and passed with flying colours. After two decades of living in London, it was, he said, about time: "I love this country, I love London and it just felt … it's an emotional thing." His citizenship ceremony is slated for a few months' time.

Shu's family are mainly abroad and while they know what he does, "they might read something in the newspaper, but they're not a customer". So, in case they're reading this, the back story to Deliveroo runs thus: as an investment banker in London in the 2000s, Shu worked long hours, with one perk of the job being the daily food allowance to buy a takeaway to eat at his desk in Canary Wharf. The trouble was, there was nowhere decent to spend it. This frustration spawned the concept for Deliveroo. After returning to business school in the United States, along with his childhood friend Greg Orlowski, a software engineer, he decided to try to solve some of the issues that Just Eat had not mastered, such as bringing on board a wider range of restaurants and improving delivery speeds.

The decision to embrace Britain so wholeheartedly may seem at odds with those in the country's technology community who take potshots at the environment for doing business here, the talent crunch, regulation and a dearth of growth capital. Shu, 43, takes issue with some of this: "I actually think this is a very good place to do business overall. It was really easy to set up a company, the ecosystem was supportive and there's a lot of great talent here."

It has not all been "easy". The business has undergone a transformation in its ten-year history, going through a public listing, enduring a pandemic boom in demand and the bust that followed, not to mention a run-in with Britain's competition regulator.

In 2019, Amazon took a 16 per cent stake in Deliveroo for $575 million, a deal that had to be cleared by the Competition and Markets Authority, a long slog for what was, in Shu's view, "a really good endorsement of the UK tech scene". Then Covid hit and Shu needed that money to keep the business afloat at a time when restaurants were closed and he felt the company could go under. The board was holding an emergency meeting every three days.

"I think the delay was unwarranted. I don't think they came out on the right side of growth. We're a British company and I fight all day against the largest multinational internet companies, the Chinese, the Americans and we couldn't get the money in because of the investigation. We had to lay off 35 per cent of the company. To me, that doesn't feel like growth."

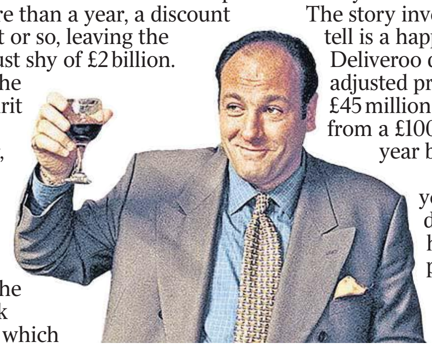
This echoes the views of Microsoft, which angrily attacked the competition authority's recent blocking of its $70 billion tie-up with Activision Blizzard. Jeremy Hunt also appeared to make a dig at the watchdog this week, saying it should consider economic growth in its decision-making.

Deliveroo went public in 2021 at 390p a share, with a launch valuation of £7.6 billion — only for its stock to slump by 26 per cent on day one in what was London's worst market debut for 20 years. The shares have not recaptured their lofty float price and have been stuck at about the 105p mark for more than a year, a discount of 70 per cent or so, leaving the market cap just shy of £2 billion.

Shu, with the optimistic spirit of the entrepreneur, does not regret the decision to go public or to list the business on the London Stock Exchange — which has been criticised repeatedly as being unfriendly to the technology sector — noting that American peers have suffered similar drops in their share prices. "We raised a billion pounds, which set us up for what we want to do. Do I think that American investors have much more experience looking at technology companies? I think that's undoubtedly true, but I don't know that America's automatically better for listing than here. I've personally found it to be a decent process."

The float was never a given. "I think about the business from a consumer lens. I think it's necessary to raise money and grow the business and, if you want capital, the public markets are the best place to go."

The difference now is that he has to communicate with a wider pool of investors who are less familiar with the company. "It's about how you tell your story concisely and quickly when they're looking at 100 stocks."



The story investors want Shu to tell is a happy, profitable one. Deliveroo delivered an adjusted pre-tax loss of £45 million in 2022, narrowed from a £100 million loss the year before.

"In our next results, you'll get more details, but I'm really happy with the progress we've made on profitability. It's a big topic that we talk about a lot. It's a combination of optimising our cost base and growing the top line. We've made a huge amount of progress on the efficiency side, we've got a lot of new revenue streams." Deliveroo cut 350 jobs in February, or 9 per cent of its staff.

Some question whether demand for Deliveroo's services can be sustained. Shu says that when it comes to future growth, the business is diversifying away from its takeaway roots. "Groceries are a super-fast-growing part of our business and our advertising product in the app, where merchants can advertise both restaurants and consumer goods companies, is an increasing part of our business.

"I think that people are more optimistic than they were in January. When we look at consumer behaviour in the UK, we've seen a lot of stabilisation." For restaurants, though, it remains a tough environment. "You've had utility prices go up massively, the minimum wage up significantly and the repeal of the VAT holiday."

Surprisingly, given the tight labour market, Deliveroo is having no trouble finding riders. "We have had record amounts of applicants and the retention rates have been just as high as they've been during Covid."

Generative artificial intelligence will come into play soon. The business is exploring using the technology to suggest food for customers based on nutritional value or calories, or what you might like for a dinner party with a budget per head.

It is a far cry from the technology available when the business began with its first client, the Rossopomodoro restaurant on the Fulham Road in southwest London, where we meet for the interview. About ten minutes in, Shu leaps up and flung his arms around Mario Romano, the marketing manager, who was Shu's first customer.

"This guy took a chance on us. It's not going to sound that impressive now, but ten years ago we had a tablet, a rider app, we had a website, we didn't even have an app then and we were just showing him the demo. And he was like, 'Wow, this is magic. How do these things talk to each other?' To see where technology has gone in ten years and how much this market has changed is pretty incredible."

Romano had tried to start his own home delivery service a few years earlier, with limited success, so Deliveroo "was just what we needed, Doing it ourselves wasn't manageable."

It's a need that partly explains why Deliveroo took off in such dramatic fashion. In the space of a decade, it has gone from Shu delivering pizzas himself to his friends to a listed business in ten markets with 150,000 delivery drivers and 158,000 restaurant partners.

Shu is "not a retrospective person", but he is very proud of the company's growth, despite the headaches. "If you look at the history of food delivery, we invented the logistics-enabled delivery side, dark kitchens, we were the first to do grocery, a subscription programme. So I think the level of innovation that we've achieved here is really high. And we're going to continue to have that mindset."

Q&A

Who is your mentor?
No one person; lots of different people around me

Does money motivate you?
Money as something in and of itself does not motivate me

What has been the most important event in your working life?
The decision to actually start the company and just doing it

Which person do you most admire?
Lee Kuan Yew, the first prime minister of Singapore

What is your favourite television programme?
The Wire, *The Sopranos*, below, *Succession*

What does leadership mean to you?
Emotionally and operationally driving a disparate group of people to a shared goal

How do you relax?
By going to the pub

CV

Age: 43
Education: bachelor's degree, Northwestern University; MBA, Wharton Business School
Career: 2001-04: analyst, Morgan Stanley (New York); **2004-06:** associate, (London); **2006-10:** securities analyst, hedge funds; **2012:** founder and chief executive, Deliveroo

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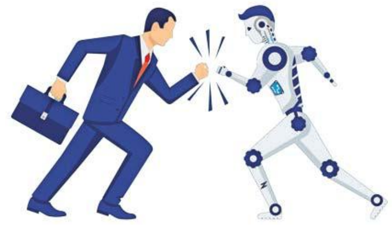
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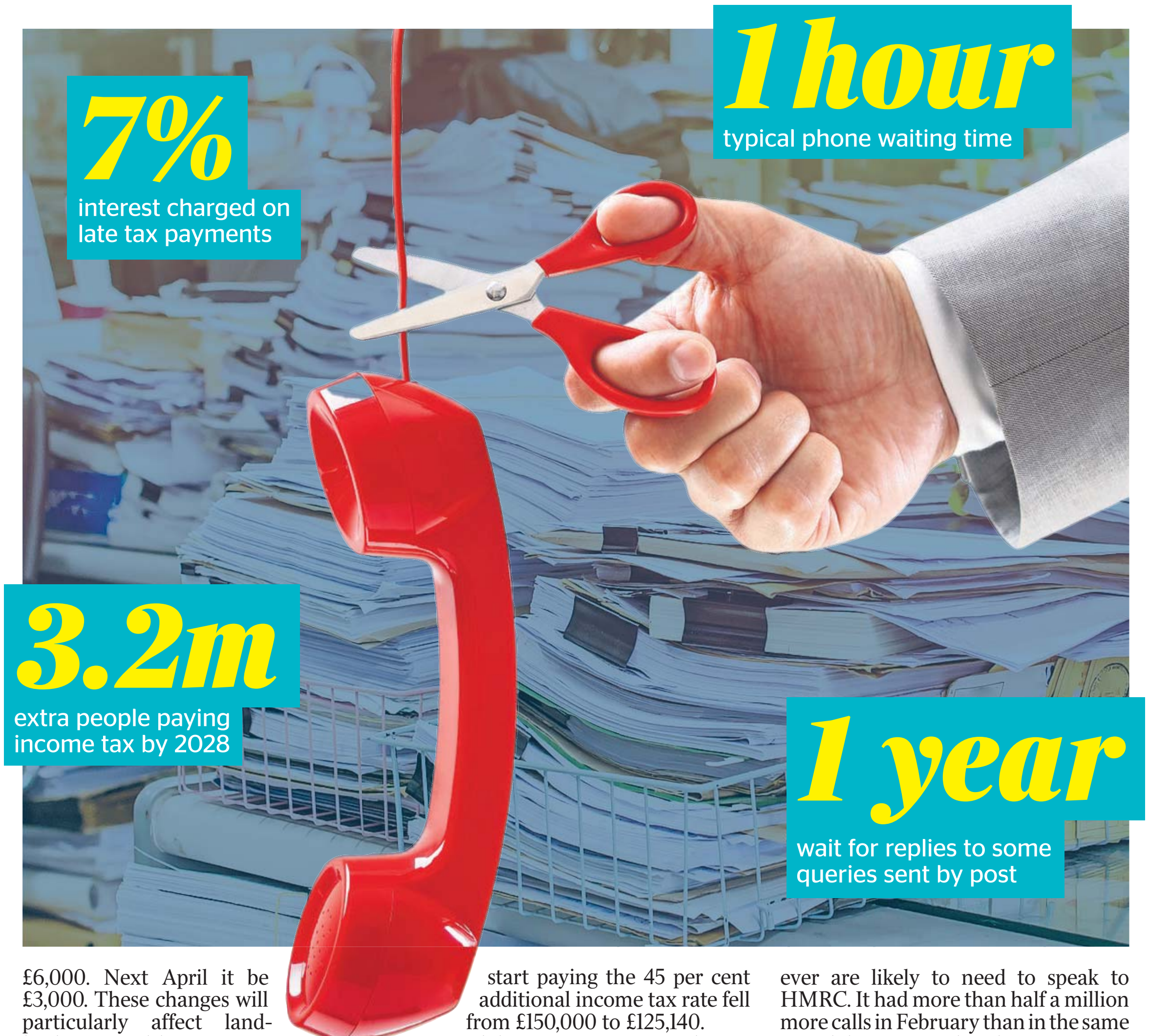
Can ChatGPT beat the human stockpickers?
Pages 58-59



Money

Hours on hold, a year wait for a letter: it's still chaos at HMRC

New rules will mean more work for a tax office that is already struggling to cope with queries, reports **Rachel Mortimer**



Millions of people who are finding it hard to get to grips with new tax rules are facing a wait of up to a year for help from HM Revenue & Customs.

Accountants have warned of chronic delays at the tax office, despite promises to improve customer service after pressure from MPs.

Taxpayers and accountants calling with urgent queries are waiting up to an hour and in some cases being cut off before they even speak to an adviser.

The postal backlog is even worse. The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales said some of its members were waiting up to a year for responses to queries sent in the post.

Caroline Miskin from the institute said: "We are not seeing any significant improvement with performance issues at HMRC and we understand it is tackling a backlog of late filing penalties. A 12-month wait for a reply to letters is not unusual, although some come through more quickly. I can't see any immediate prospect of things getting better without serious extra funding."

The tax office failed to meet call waiting targets last year. Waiting times on the self-assessment helpline went from an average of five minutes in 2017 to almost 20 minutes in October and Times research found that one in five callers were simply giving up.

This comes as taxpayers have to deal with a range of changes to allowances that could catch many people out.

The fact that income tax thresholds will not increase until 2028 will drag more people into paying tax and having to file a self-assessment return. In April the capital gains tax-free allowance more than halved from £12,300 to £6,000. Next April it be £3,000. These changes will particularly affect landlords, second-home owners and those with investments held outside an Isa — all of whom could face a bigger tax bill than last year.

The dividend allowance has been cut from £2,000 to £1,000, affecting investors who take an income from their portfolio and business-owners who pay themselves a dividend. The rate of corporation tax on profits over £250,000 went up from 19 per cent to 25 per cent. Meanwhile the threshold at which you start paying the 45 per cent additional income tax rate fell from £150,000 to £125,140.

And despite average annual wage growth of 6.9 per cent in the year to February, the annual income at which you start to lose eligibility for child benefit is still frozen at £50,000, meaning that more parents must file a self-assessment tax return to pay it back.

A record 10.1 per cent increase to the state pension, which now pays £10,600 a year, could also mean that more pensioners will have to file a tax return.

All this means that more people than ever are likely to need to speak to HMRC. It had more than half a million more calls in February than in the same month last year and said it was preparing for more "active management in the tax system", with its staff dealing with more complex questions as more people have to pay more tax.

Chris Etherington from the accountancy firm RSM UK, said that queries were often ignored for months. "In many instances HMRC will not accept correspondence by email and it is necessary to write. It is not uncommon for general correspondence, such as to claim a refund or disclose an error, to take over a year to be dealt with," he said.

This could lead to more late payment penalties, which accrue interest at the Bank of England base rate (4.5 per cent at present) plus 2.5 percentage points.

"Many taxpayers are concerned about getting higher bills simply because of the time it can take to settle their enquiries," Etherington said.

Until June, the tax office's dedicated phone line for accountants and tax advisers is only dealing with queries relating to self-assessment late filing penalties and PAYE codes. Accountants calling on behalf of clients with other types of query now have to go online or use the general helpline, which makes phone queues even longer.

One RSM accountant spent over six hours over the course of a week waiting on the general helpline with an urgent query to settle a client's tax liability. When the accountant eventually got through the adviser said they could not help and put the phone down. The client's payment deadline was missed.

HMRC customer service staff get between two and ten weeks of training before handling phone calls.

HMRC said: "We're handling significant demand but must continue to operate efficiently, which is why we encourage customers to use our quick online services. We're continuing to improve and expand our digital services, enabling advisers to focus on customers who need one-to-one support."

Miskin said: "HMRC seems to think that the solution is getting people onto digital services. But in many cases they are just not working well enough."

How to battle the system

- Before you join the long helpline queue get your national insurance number, your unique taxpayer reference and any other paperwork ready, to avoid having to call back and start the process all over again. Lunchtimes and evenings are the busiest times so try to avoid them. The self-assessment helpline is open on Saturdays.

Forget soaring interest rates — get a 0% loan to green up your home

Anyone with a Nationwide mortgage will be able to borrow up to £15,000 at 0 per cent interest to upgrade boilers and install solar panels and electric car charging points.

The only catch is that you could face hefty early repayment charges if you want to pay off the debt early.

The building society is the first to offer free extra borrowing for green home improvements. The money can also be used to install ground source heat pumps, insulation and double glazing.

Other lenders will allow you to borrow more for energy efficiency improvements but will apply their usual mortgage interest rates, which are typically 4 per cent to 5 per cent.

Other lenders also only require you to spend half the amount borrowed on green measures, whereas Nationwide stipulates that all the money has to go on green improvements.

The Nationwide loans of between £5,000 and £15,000 will be available from June 1 for mortgage holders seeking "Green Additional Borrowing". The loan can be for up to 40 years (or until you hit age 75) and you can choose from an interest-free period of two or five years. Once the fixed period ends, the rate will revert to the lender's standard variable rate (SVR), which is 7.74 per cent at the moment, but you will be able to switch lender or pay off the loan without penalty at that point.

Early repayment charges (ERC) of up to 5 per cent will apply if you try to pay off more than 10 per cent in the first year of the 0 per cent period. The ERCs fall after that so that you pay only 1.5 per cent if you pay off the loan in year five of the 0 per cent period.

£15,000
The amount you can borrow at 0 per cent for five years

Chris Sykes from the mortgage broker Private Finance said: "This loan could easily be seen as free money. However, it is important to consider the early repayment charges if you want to pay it off before interest starts to apply."

If you want to put money aside to use to clear your debt, consider putting regular payments into a two or five-year fixed rate savings account. Saving £250 a month would mean you could repay the maximum £15,000 green loan after five years — if you earned interest you would hit the target faster.

Borrowers will have to pass new affordability checks with Nationwide, even though they already have a mortgage. Total borrowing — mortgage plus green loan — cannot exceed 90 per cent of the value of their property.

Homeowners will save money through energy efficiency measures, but it could take decades, depending on the products and future energy costs.
Ali Hussain

Money

The self-employed need a savings boost — or they may never retire



Holly Mead
Deputy Money Editor

For a couple of years I was a freelance journalist. A large part of being self-employed is admin: spreadsheets for invoices and expenses, a visit to an accountant, and a limited company set up. I put about 30 per cent of everything I earned into a separate savings account ready to pay the tax bill when the time came.

But one thing I never got round to was setting up a pension.

I reasoned that it was wise not to — I didn't know if I would like freelancing or how successful it would be. Now was not the time to start locking money away for 40 years.

But six months or so later, when things were going well, setting up a pension was added to the bottom of my to-do list. And there it remained until I went back into full-time employment, at which point I ticked the box on the HR forms about pension contributions and breathed a sigh of relief: I was back in the system.

As of February, there were about 4.4 million self-employed workers in the UK, according to the data company Statista.

Millions more work in the "gig economy", with several different jobs or short-term contracts. They do not enjoy employee perks such as paid annual leave or death in service cover.

And, crucially, they are not included in auto-enrolment, the system introduced in 2012 under which employees aged 22 and over earning more than £10,000 are automatically signed up to their workplace pension scheme.

Auto-enrolment has undoubtedly been a success. About 79 per cent of full-time employees are now saving for the future, up from 49 per cent before it was introduced. There are concerns that the present minimum contribution levels are not enough, but something is definitely better than nothing.

And nothing is exactly what millions of self-employed workers have put aside for their future. According to the Office for National Statistics, only about 18 per cent of self-employed workers were saving into a pension in 2021-22.

We need to expand auto-enrolment so that it captures these forgotten workers — including part-time workers, low earners and those on zero-hour contracts.

The Lifetime Isa is a good starting point for those over 18 and under 40. It lets you save up to £4,000 a year and you get a 25 per cent top-up from the government. You can access the money either from age 60 or when you buy your first home — for other withdrawals you will pay a 25 per cent penalty, which eats up more than your bonus. The main appeal for the self-employed is the government bonus — it is equivalent to the tax relief that basic-rate payers enjoy on their pension contributions. There are limitations, though: the low annual savings limit, the fact that you don't get tax relief on your contributions, and that you can't save into it after 50 (which is typically the time that people start ramping up their savings once they have cleared the mortgage and the kids have left home).

But it's a start. Scrapping the age limit on contributions would help to level the playing field, even if the government stopped offering the annual bonus after a certain point.

Of course self-employed workers can set up their own pension, but this can be complicated and intimidating. Many have no interest in choosing investments and monitoring a portfolio. What about some guidance at the point that someone registers for self-assessment, indicating what the options are? You could, for example, join the government-backed pension scheme Nest.

But even then, the self-employed are on the back foot because employees get contributions from their workplace, which has a huge impact on savings.

An employee earning £40,000 and saving 5 per cent of their salary into a pension, would get this topped up to the equivalent of 8 per cent of their wage through tax relief and employer contributions. That means they would save £266.67 a month (assuming contributions were based on your full salary) while the actual cost to the worker would be only £133.34.

After 30 years of saving at this level (ignoring pay rises for the purposes of simplicity) with annual investment growth of 5 per cent, they would have £221,938.

A self-employed worker saving 5 per cent of their £40,000 earnings into a pension would get no extra contributions, so would save £166.67 a month (about £33 of which comes from tax relief). After 30 years they would have £138,712. Is there a way to provide a boost for these savers?

Some groups have suggested using self-assessment tax returns. Industry experts suggest that the most likely way would be to link self-employed pension contributions to national insurance rates — either by offering the self-employed a discounted rate in return for saving into a pension, or by increasing the rate at which they pay national insurance but funnelling that money off into a pension.

It's not easy to implement and I fear it will only make the already hideously complicated self-assessment forms even more baffling.

> **Auto-enrolment isn't perfect, but something is definitely better than nothing**

And as a self-employed friend pointed out: I'm not sure how likely I am to save thousands of pounds into a pension if the choice comes at the exact moment I get a hefty tax bill. The way that people work is changing — the gig economy is growing; people want more flexibility and freedom. Pensions need to evolve to fit this world.

A parliamentary group paper found more than half of self-employed people were concerned about running out of money in retirement — and they are right to be worried.

Solving the pension problem for the self-employed is not simple, but it cannot keep being ignored.

*@holly_mead_*

The big question

Should standing charges for energy be scrapped?

Yes



Scott Byrom, the chief executive of the Energy Shop, a comparison site

Standing charges are the energy equivalent to the line rental you pay to your phone company. They cover the cost of infrastructure and picking up the pieces when other energy firms go bust, among other things.

In recent years these charges have crept up and caught many people off guard. In April 2019, they cost about 25p a day for each fuel, so gas and electricity customers paid 50p a day even if they did not use any energy — an annual cost of £182.50.

Today it is 53p a day for electricity and 29p for gas — that's £300 a year before you have even switched on a light, a 64 per cent increase in four years.

As is so often the case, it is the lowest usage customers and those most vulnerable who seem to be hit hardest. The government's energy price guarantee limits unit costs of energy so that the average dual fuel household bill is about £2,500 a year. The £300 a year in standing charges is nearly 12 per cent of the total bill. If you cut your usage, those fixed charges you can't do anything about will make up a greater percentage of your bill.

Those on prepayment meters, often the most vulnerable households, pay about 58p a day standing charge for electricity and 38p a day for gas, although the government and Ofgem are now looking at ways to lower this "prepayment premium".

Standing charges are bad for consumers but a great way for energy suppliers to maximise cashflow and secure as much revenue as possible. They do not offer fair value. Suppliers should revisit how they are structured. They should be a tool to discourage high usage of energy instead of being yet another financial burden on the most vulnerable in society.

No



Nigel Pocklington from the renewable energy supplier Good Energy

There was a time when most people would be baffled if you asked what they pay their energy supplier in pence per kilowatt hour or per day. But as prices have risen everyone has been scrutinising their bills and become aware of the fixed element: standing charges.

These cover "non-energy" components such as use and maintenance of the networks, metering and some government schemes. The charges do not increase with how much energy you use, so it does not make sense to bundle them in with unit rates.

But they have become bloated. We all pay for the costs of failed suppliers which were lumped into standing charges in late 2021 when energy prices rocketed too. A five-bedroom luxury home, assuming it has one meter point, pays the same as a small flat on the same tariff in the same location. This is not conducive to cutting energy usage.

But equally, we desperately need upgrades to our grid and energy system to achieve net-zero goals. These costs, alongside important social schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation, under which suppliers must help vulnerable customers to cut their usage, are imperative to bringing down bills.

So we should look to reduce standing charges — moving some of the social costs, including the Warm Home Discount, off bills and into the tax system. We also need to incentivise the electrification of heat. Unit prices and standing charges are higher for electricity than polluting gas, largely due to policy costs, so getting a heat pump is not as appealing as it should be.

But given that our energy infrastructure is shared and needs to be metered, it is hard to imagine a functional system entirely without standing charges.

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW

How to handle a sudden cash windfall

PLUS



SPECIAL REPORT

Cost of childcare pushes working parents into debt

Just give me my £30k pot, Aviva

An annuity is the last thing this pensioner wants to unwrap on his birthday, finds **Lily Russell-Jones**



Gerard Logue, with his wife Susan, is drowning in paperwork as he tries to get at his pension savings

Today is Gerard Logue's 75th birthday. While he is looking forward to celebrating the occasion with his family, there is one unusual gift that he is dreading — an annuity from his pension firm Aviva.

Some pension schemes automatically use your pot to buy an annuity — an insurance product that pays a set income — when you turn 75 if you do not withdraw the money or move it into another pension product. But Logue has been trying to withdraw his £30,000 pension savings without success since July and now fears it is too late to stop the automatic conversion.

The former business owner from Long Itchington in Warwickshire, wants to put the money into his self-administered pension scheme, which holds about £300,000.

25%

The amount of your pension pot you can take as a tax-free lump sum

He was contacted by Aviva last summer with a reminder to withdraw funds from his pot, an old workplace pension that he had set up in 1986. Logue requested more information about his options, but was not told the value of his pension until November. He sent Aviva details about his self-administered pension in October but the transfer forms didn't arrive until February 16.

Two weeks later a second set of forms arrived, which had to be completed by Logue's wife, Susan.

In April Logue was asked to fill in an online questionnaire to confirm that he was not coerced into moving his pension savings as part of a scam.

"I can't believe we are well into 2023 and I'm still being given hurdles to jump over. Everything they've asked for, I'm trying to provide," said Logue, who has been asked to prove that the pension into which he wants to move his money is legitimate. To do this he must provide a copy of the registration certificate, which should have been issued by HM Revenue & Customs when his self-administered pension was set up.

Logue has been unable to find the document. "We are in a stalemate. They are saying until they get the certificate they can't do anything. We cannot get a certificate because it's not available."

In February Aviva paid Logue £75 compensation after he complained about mistakes and delays. It apologised and said two letters to Logue had been sent to the wrong address because he had not updated his details. His fear was that he would miss the deadline.

"I phoned the complaints line on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week. I got no answer," Logue said. "After my birthday I cannot transfer the money to a new provider or withdraw it flexibly. Aviva has run this down to the wire."

Tom McPhail from the pension consultancy The Lang Cat said: "A delay of a month or two might be understandable, but ten months is ludicrous. These experiences persistently and understandably undermine people's confidence in the financial services sector."

Before pension rules were relaxed in 2015, giving more flexibility over what you can do with your pension pot, most people's savings would be automatically converted into an annuity by 75. Not all pension firms have updated older schemes to stop this from happening. McPhail said: "I sympathise with Logue because it sounds like he is doing what he should have been to try to solve this problem, but has now run out of time."

Consolidating your pension pots is usually sensible — it can reduce your fees and make it easier to keep track of your savings. But if you do plan to transfer money out of an older pension scheme, be sure to read the terms and conditions. You could lose benefits by moving your money to a new firm and may have to pay exit fees.

"Transferring older style pensions can be more hassle and come with more risk than with modern pensions. In particular, where you have an old plan with guarantees attached, it is possible that these will be lost if you switch provider," said Tom Selby from the investment platform AJ Bell.

"But it is too often the case that firms drag their feet on transfers for no good reason, creating frustration for customers and potentially causing real detriment. Clearly it is important that any transfer is carried out safely, but holding up transfers for months and months for no good reason is unacceptable."

If you are unhappy with the service you have received from a financial company you can complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service. It resolves disputes between customers and companies and can award financial compensation.

> **I phoned on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. No answer**

You should complain directly to the company first and wait eight weeks for a response. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you can contact the ombudsman online at financial-ombudsman.org.uk.

After Money contacted Aviva it said that it would not automatically turn Logue's pension into an annuity on his birthday. But it said it would still need to see the certificate for his self-administered pension to validate the transfer.

Aviva said: "As a pension provider we must undertake due diligence to comply with the rules on pension transfers. This is to protect the customer and ensure that any transfer is to a properly registered and regulated scheme.

"Please be assured that we will not automatically annuitise the pension on his 75th birthday. We are happy to extend this timescale to allow for the transfer to happen, provided that we receive the relevant paperwork."

Earn 7% on savings — but there's a catch

Banks have been slow to pass on higher interest rates to savers, as inflation eats away at hard-earned nest eggs. But savers tempted by some attractive rates on the market might find their money works harder elsewhere.

First Direct pays a market-leading rate of 7 per cent on its regular saver account, but you will need to open a current account with the bank to qualify. Customers must save at least £25 each month but you cannot pay in more than £300 a month — so it may not suit those looking to put away large sums.

If you put aside the maximum amount, you would earn £136.50 interest after a year, giving you a total balance of £3,736.50.

The rate is fixed for a year and you cannot withdraw your money before then — if you do make a withdrawal First Direct will close the account and pay a lower interest rate.

Lucinda O'Brien from the comparison site Money.co.uk said that the account was well suited to anyone who saved "little and often". However, those with a lump sum to stash away could earn more interest in a lower-paying account which allows you to save more.

Savings rates are rising after the Bank of England increased its base rate 12 times since its record low of 0.1 per cent in December 2021. The most recent rise took it from 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent this month as part of the Bank's bid to tame rampant inflation.

Banks have been criticised for being slow to pass on the higher rates to savers, but competition in the market has increased. The average fixed term regular savings rate is 4.23 per cent on a £1,000 deposit, up from 4.19 per cent at the beginning of the month, according to the comparison site Moneyfacts.



New banks and those who are solely based online in particular are offering top rates as they try to attract customers.

All the top five regular savings accounts on the market have caps of between £150 and £400 on monthly contributions. Savers with bigger sums might fare better with an easy-access account, which means they can withdraw their cash without any restrictions.

Barclays pays 5.12 per cent on balances up to £5,000 in its Rainy Day Saver account, but customers will need to be a member of the bank's reward scheme to qualify.

While it usually pays to tie your money up for longer, the expectation that interest rates may be close to a peak means longer term deals are no longer as attractive.

Allica Bank pays 5 per cent on balances between £10,000 and £250,000, but you will need to tie your cash up for a year.

Two-year fixed rate bonds from OakNorth Bank and Close Brothers pay 4.96 per cent. Hampshire Trust Bank pays 5.01 per cent on balances up to £250,000 for 18 months.

More affluent savers can get a private savings account with Virgin Money, although customers must have annual earnings of at least £75,000 or £100,000 as a couple to qualify.

Virgin Money pays 4.32 per cent on savings up to £499,999, a rate of 4.58 per cent on saving up to £1 million and 4.84 per cent on anything above that.

Rachel Mortimer

Watch out for tougher tax rules if you claim for WFH

Employees who choose to work from home can no longer claim tax relief on their expenses.

Claims will be accepted only from those whose employers do not have an office or those whose job requires them to live a long way away from the office.

Homeworkers who meet the criteria can claim tax relief on £6 a week, at the rate they pay income tax, to cover expenses such as business phone calls and electricity for a work area.

A basic-rate taxpayer can claim up to £62.40 a year, and a higher-rate taxpayer could claim £124.80.

Rules brought in during the pandemic had allowed workers to claim tax relief if they were required to work from home because offices were closed or because they had to self-isolate.

"The pandemic has changed the way many of us work. So-called hybrid working is now the norm, with many employees in the office for only two or three days a week," said Flora Barnes from the accountancy firm RSM. "Working from home comes with costs for employees. However, HM Revenue & Customs has stopped those who opt to work from home claiming expense relief. This is true even for those who are unable to go to the office due to employers leasing smaller premises meaning they have fewer desks than employees.

"This makes commercial sense for employers, but it leaves employees unable to come into the office full-time."

Before the pandemic only about one in eight working adults said they worked from home, according to the Office for National Statistics. In February about two in five said they had worked from home at some point in the past seven days.

"If an employer has downsized, it doesn't feel right that the taxpayer should pick up the tab for employees working from home," said Laith Khalaf from the investment platform AJ Bell.

Employers can make tax-exempt payments to reimburse the costs of homeworking. Your employer can pay up to £6 a week without needing to provide HMRC with evidence of how the money has been spent.

HMRC said: "Eligible employees who have no choice but to work from home can claim online for free." Go to gov.uk for more information.

Lily Russell-Jones

Money

Could ChatGPT take on the big fund managers?

See what happened when **Ali Hussain** took some stock tips from AI bots then compared their performance against market-leading investments



48.8%

The 3-year increase in ChatGPT's picks — Fundsmith was up 33.8% and Vanguard 38.5%

The artificial intelligence bot ChatGPT can make investment recommendations that beat the choices made by professional stock pickers — but it may need to be talked into it.

On April 27 I asked ChatGPT to suggest five stocks that were most likely to increase in value over the next few weeks. "I cannot provide financial or investment advice, nor can I predict stock market trends or specific stock performance," it said.

"I am not seeking advice," I responded. "Just curious to know."

It said: "I understand your curiosity, but as an AI language model, I am not capable of predicting or recommending specific stocks to buy or sell …" and so it went on.

The stocks

After some persuading ChatGPT suggested five US multinationals: Johnson & Johnson, Visa, Procter & Gamble, Microsoft and Coca-Cola. We also asked for five UK-listed stocks and it suggested the consumer goods firm Unilever, the drugs firms AstraZeneca and GlaxoSmithKline, BP and the high street bank HSBC.

42%

overlap between ChatGPT and Bard's stock picks

If you had divided a £50,000 investment between the five US shares equally on April 27, you would have made a profit of £155.60 ten working days later — on May 16.

By comparison the average US equity fund manager had a return of £135 over this period, and the average US tracker fund, which follows the US stock market index, would have lost £100, according to the investment platform AJ Bell.

The same amount invested in the five UK stocks suggested by ChatGPT would have gained £124, while the average UK managed fund was down £145 over the period and the average UK tracker fund was down £360.

We are not drawing huge conclusions from this because ten days is obviously far too short a period to make a proper assessment of performance, but it is an interesting snapshot of how markets, and shares, can perform, and how artificial intelligence can draw rapid conclusions.

There will always be some managers who do much better or worse than the market. For example, over the ten days that we looked at, a £50,000 investment in the £995 million Liontrust UK Growth Fund would have been down £500 while the £1.5 billion Artemis US Select Fund would have risen £1,730.

The portfolio

On March 6 the comparison website Finder asked ChatGPT and Bard, Google's rival chatbot, to provide lists of 38 stocks. It requested 38 because this is the number of stocks typically held by Fundsmith Equity, one of the most successful and largest UK equity funds.

ChatGPT recommended a list with US companies such as Coca-Cola, the Facebook-owner Meta and Microsoft making up 87 per cent of the portfolio.

This is far more concentrated than Fundsmith, which has 66.8 per cent of its £24 billion of assets in American stocks, 12.2 per cent in French shares and 10.6 per cent in Danish equities, according to the data firm Trustnet. However, in performance, ChatGPT came out on top some of the time.

Over the nine weeks between March 6 and May 16, ChatGPT's stock basket, if invested in equally across the 38 stocks, was up 1.3 per cent while Fundsmith Equity gained 2.7 per cent, according to Fundsmith's calculations in sterling. The Vanguard FTSE Global All Cap Index fund was down 2.65 per cent.

If you go back over three years, the ChatGPT basket would have returned 48.8 per cent compared with Fundsmith Equity's 33.8 per cent. The Vanguard fund rose 38.5 per cent.

Over a year Fundsmith was again the winner with a rise of 11.3 per cent, compared with ChatGPT's 2 per cent rise. The index fund was up 3.07 per cent.

Of course, ChatGPT may not have necessarily selected these stocks one and three years ago.

Bard's selection of 38 stocks fared less well, falling 1.95 per cent since March 6 this year, falling 1.01 per cent over one year but going up 36.7 per cent over three years.

Fundsmith said: "Our analysis shows that Fundsmith Equity outperformed ChatGPT from March 6 to May 16. As ChatGPT was only released in November 2022, any longer analysis is a back test with all the benefit of hindsight which is risible, although Fundsmith also outperformed over the past year. Regardless, any comparison is nonsense because it includes no costs, no liquidity considerations and no portfolio adjustments which are always needed.

"Believing that an AI model can run a fund is a bit like playing Call of Duty and assuming it makes you fit to serve in a combat infantry unit."

Why trust a chatbot?

Artificial intelligence is still in its early stages. ChatGPT's responses come from a knowledge base up to September 2021, so its ability to provide up-to-date information is limited. Bard, on the other hard, generates responses in real time from the internet. Bard listed only 37 stocks despite a request for 38. It did eventually provide the required number when its "mistake" was pointed out.

Victoria Scholar from the wealth manager Interactive Investor identified some other "computing errors".

"Bard included 'The Walt Disney Company' as well as 'Disney' and has also included Facebook, which no longer exists as a listed stock, rather it is a component of its parent company, Meta," she said. "ChatGPT has also made a mistake by including United Technologies, which rebranded in 2020 after its merger with Raytheon."

All of Bard's picks were S&P 500 index companies, while ChatGPT included only a small number of non-US firms, which is another issue.

Jason Hollands from the wealth manager Evelyn Partners said: "While many of the world's leading companies are listed in the US, in the real world it does not have a monopoly on great businesses and no one's portfolio should be exposed to a single market."

The dominance of US stock reflects the fact that there is a lot of data publicly available about them, said Hollands. This is because their shares are traded regularly and they are heavily covered by analyst research.

Hollands said: "AI tools work by processing huge amounts of available data, so the AI fund picks have perhaps inevitably gravitated towards very large, global businesses. There are some great, world-class companies in both lists, but there are so many more opportunities to explore. The best returns can be made by uncovering hidden gems, with the potential to become the Amazon or Meta of the future — you won't find those with chatbots."

He added: "We tested ChatGPT on inheritance tax. While it said that you could gift your house to your children and avoid IHT if you lived seven years, there was no mention of the extra allowance you get for passing on your main home, which is highly relevant. Another example of the tool being a useful starting point but definitely not to be blindly relied upon."

Another potential red flag was the bots' focus on the technology sector. Neither ChatGPT nor Bard included any exposure to materials, utilities or real estate, which together account for 8 per cent of the S&P 500 index.

Bard's picks included two energy companies (ExxonMobil and Chevron), while ChatGPT had no energy companies on its list (either fossil fuels or renewables). That's despite the fact that energy represents 4.7 per cent of the S&P 500 and was the best performing sector of the equity market last year.

ChatGPT had 13 tech stocks on its list. If you had a portfolio with equal amounts in each stock, technology would make up 34 per cent, significantly higher than the 25.8 per cent exposure in the S&P 500 index.

Bard's list includes eight tech stocks, representing 21 per cent of an equally weighted portfolio. It had a much higher exposure to financials than ChatGPT, though, with seven stocks (18 per cent) compared with four in the ChatGPT list (10.5 per cent).

Only two banks made the lists, with the Wall Street giant Goldman Sachs on the ChatGPT list and Wells Fargo on Bard's. Hollands said: "In this experiment, both chatbots provided a shortlist of very large, high-quality companies, which provides a useful set of ideas for those who are keen on picking their own stocks.

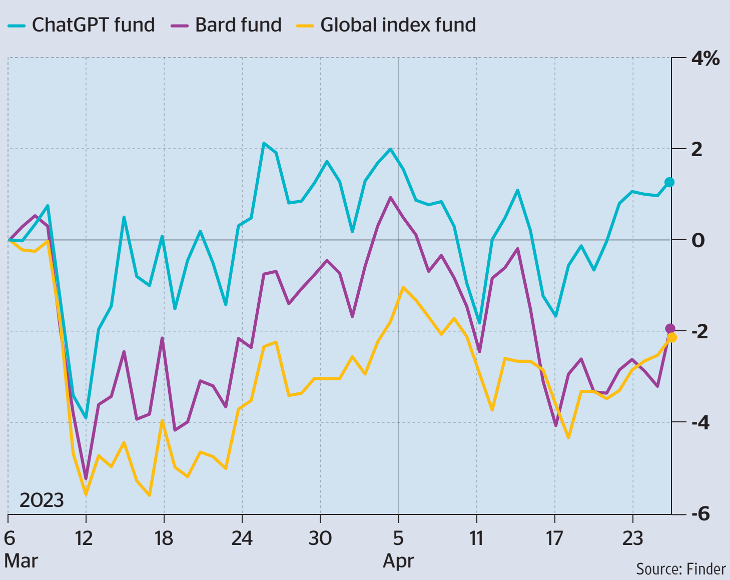
However, investors will still need to

> Chatbots are a starting point but definitely not to be blindly relied upon

> Believing that an AI model can run a fund is a bit like playing Call of Duty assuming it makes you fit for combat

Beating the market

Performance of the chatbot's stocks versus a tracker fund



Source: Finder

Beating the humans

Profit on £50,000 over ten working days

▲ profit ▼ loss

ChatGPT US stocks	▲	£155.60
Average US tracker fund	▼	£100
Average US equity fund	▲	£135
ChatGPT UK stocks	▲	£124
Average UK tracker fund	▼	£360
Average UK equity fund	▼	£145

Source: AJ Bell



form their own view on which to own, whether the timing is right and the appropriate exposure to take, and should also consider diversifying beyond the US to other markets."

Interestingly, 16 stocks appeared in both lists — an overlap of 42 per cent. These 16, if invested in equally, would have returned 0.53 per cent over a year — less than the chatbots' full basket of stocks, Fundsmith or a US market tracker over the same period. "It appears that two AI chatbot brains are not better than one," said Hollands.

The funds

When asked to recommend a fund that provided exposure to the list of stocks it recommended, ChatGPT suggested the Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund. However, this is not available to UK investors. The fund also tracks an index that covers almost all US companies including medium and smaller-sized firms as well as the largest.

Given that the ChatGPT stock list was entirely composed of larger companies, a better option would be an S&P 500 index fund, according to Hollands. A low-cost S&P 500 tracker available to UK investors is the Vanguard S&P 500 UCITS Exchange Traded Fund, (ETF), which charges 0.07 per cent a year.

The ready-made choice

If you want to start a ready-made portfolio that already has a good mix of sectors and regions, which would ChatGPT recommend?

It suggested funds from Nutmeg, Vanguard, Wealthify, Moneyfarm and AJ Bell, all of which provide ready-made investment portfolios. These services allow you to pick a fund that suits your appetite for risk. Generally the more risk you are comfortable with, the more of the fund will be invested in equities and less invested in bonds.

We asked ChatGPT what it would suggest that someone with £10,000 should do if they were willing to take some risk and invest for ten years.

It suggested the Vanguard LifeStrategy funds, a range of ready-made portfolios that invest between 20 per cent and 100 per cent of assets in equities depending on how much risk you choose to take. The higher your appetite for risk, the more of your portfolio you should allocate to shares.

ChatGPT said that Vanguard funds provided "diversified portfolios with different asset allocations based on your risk tolerance". Another option given was the iShares Core MSCI World ETF, which replicates the MSCI world index of global stocks.

It also recommended the Baillie Gifford Global Discovery Fund, which is run by a human stockpicker and is not a tracker, and the Legal & General Global Technology Index Fund, which it said was a good option for someone with a higher risk tolerance.

For a more cautious investor it suggested bond funds such as the Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund and iShares Core US Aggregate Bond ETF.

When asked how to allocate the £10,000 between the fund picks for an investor willing to take some risk, it suggested this split: Vanguard LifeStrategy funds: 40 per cent (£4,000), iShares Core MSCI World UCITS ETF: 25 per cent (£2,500), Baillie Gifford Global Discovery Fund: 20 per cent (£2,000), Legal & General Global Technology Index Fund: 10 per cent (£1,000), Bond fund: 5 per cent (£500).

We asked Emma Wall from the wealth manager Hargreaves Lansdown what she thought of these recommendations.

"On first glance, the picks are not bad. There is a core/satellite approach which is the basis of good a portfolio, where you have a significant amount invested in a core fund and then smaller allocations to others. The Vanguard range offers a good blend of equities and bonds, taking the difficult task of asset allocation off your hands.

"However, there is a considerable difference between the highest and lowest risk options in the range, and the bot does not stipulate which return and volatility profile is suitable for you.

"There is a developed market bias too. A portfolio focused on long-term growth should have more emerging markets. There is also an overlap in the number of funds with the same largest holdings. The point of funds is their diversification benefits so you should be wary of accidentally double or triple-investing in the same stock."

Get those student loan forms in now

Students starting university this autumn should apply for loans and grants now, even if their place has not been confirmed.

The deadline for new students in England was yesterday. Returning students have until June 23. Applications can still be made after the deadline but the money may not arrive in time for the autumn term start. The deadline for new students is May 26 in Wales and June 30 in Scotland. In Northern Ireland it was April 5. For returning students in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland the deadline is June 30.

You can apply up to nine months after a course starts but the earlier you apply, the earlier you get the money.

Many students will be in the middle of their A-level exams and may not know where or if they are going to university, but can still apply for funds using their preferred college choice and change the details later.

Applications for tuition fees and living expenses are done on the same form. Tuition fee loans of up to £9,250 are paid to the university, and maintenance loans are paid to the student. The amount of maintenance loans vary depending on what country you live in when you apply, where you will live while you study and your parents' income. Students get less if they live with parents and more if they live away from home. Students who have additional needs, have children, or are on a medical, social work or teaching course may get more. Go to gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help.

University used to be free, but £1,000 tuition fees were introduced in 1998 and have gradually increased. In 1970 there were about 620,000 people at university, but by 2010 there were 1.8 million. The Student Loans Company paid more than 1.5 million students more than £22 billion in loans and grants in the last academic year.

Students who take out loans from September will have their debt wiped out after 40 years — up from 30 years for those with loans now.

Ali Hussain



Investment tips for the cautious: how you can get low-risk returns

In the first of a series, **David Brenchley** offers some guidance on how to choose a fund to suit your personality type

All investments involve an element of risk — determining how much risk you are willing to take is the first step for any investor.

Those who have a long timescale — a 35-year-old saving for retirement, for instance — can generally afford to take more risk than, say, someone approaching retirement who needs their savings to fund their spending once they have given up work.

That's not always true, though. Some younger people are less comfortable investing through periods of steep stock market falls. Some older people may be investing extra cash that they want to pass down to their children and so are happy to take on more risk.

Over the next few weeks, we will take a look at how to invest depending on your appetite for risk. Today, we have some tips for more cautious investors.

1 Get an emergency fund

Make sure that you can afford to invest. Jane Martin from the wealth manager Atomos recommends having emergency savings that will cover at least three months of your normal spending. The more cautiously minded might prefer six to nine months' worth as a buffer. This should be placed in an easy-access account paying the highest rate available — at the moment this is with the savings app Chip, which pays 3.71 per cent.

"Having an emergency fund means that you are not likely to dip into your investments during volatile times," Martin said.

Yet even cash carries risk. Chip's rate is well below the latest inflation figure, which was 10.1 per cent for the year to March, so your money is losing value in real terms. "Cash may seem like the safest option, but it means you're at risk of inflation eroding your future purchasing power," said Gabriella Macari from the fund platform Tillit.

2 Try a one-stop shop

If you don't know much about investing and don't have the time or inclination to learn, a multi-asset fund can act as a one-stop shop for less confident investors.

These funds invest in lots of different assets, including traditional equities and bonds through to alternatives such as gold and infrastructure. You can choose a fund to suit your risk tolerance.

Keep an eye on fees. Low-cost options to consider include Vanguard's LifeStrategy range, which has an annual fee of 0.22 per cent.

Most of BlackRock's MyMap (multi-asset portfolio) range is cheaper, charging 0.17 per cent, while Columbia Threadneedle's Universal MAP funds charge 0.35 per cent.

10.1%
The rate of inflation for the year to March

3 Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Diversifying what you invest in is the best way to mitigate the risks in your portfolio.

"Diversification may not be the way to maximise returns, but it does reduce risk, smooth returns, protect hard-earned money and help you sleep at night," said Neil Birrell from the fund house Premier Miton.

Invest in stocks and bonds because historically these two assets have moved differently — when stocks have lost value, bonds have made you money. Last year bonds fell more than stocks, but that should not put you off. The rise in bond yields now means that you can get better returns for taking less risk, Birrell said.

Consider other assets, too, such as funds that invest in infrastructure (like hospitals and toll roads) or gold. Beware that adding too many different assets might complicate your portfolio and make it harder to keep track of your investments, said Nicolo Bragazza from Morningstar Investment Management.

4 But hang on to your stocks

Stocks are less risky the longer you hold them. Over any three-year period in the past 158 years, a stock investor had a 22.1 per cent chance of losing money in inflation-adjusted terms, research from the fund house Schroders shows. Over 20-year periods, that falls to just 0.1 per cent. In other words, you have a 99.9 per cent chance of making money in real terms if you invest over 20 years.

"It is all about time in the markets, not timing the markets," Martin said. "Coming out of the market before you need the money just crystallises a loss that could recover in time. There is no time in western history that markets have not recovered."

Start by investing small amounts through pound-cost averaging, where you make monthly contributions to your investment and so buy more when prices are low and less when prices are high. Consider a global stock market index tracker such as the Vanguard Global All Cap Index fund.

Martin said: "This creates a disciplined investment approach to saving and takes advantage of market volatility and hopefully improves the returns."

5 Choose lower-risk investments

Some sectors have been proven to have lower volatility than others, said Macari. This can help you to get higher returns than you might get from bonds, but with fewer ups and downs.

Consider utilities — gas and electricity providers — and firms that sell consumer staples, such as food and drink, toothpaste and cleaning products. Steer clear of higher-risk areas such as small companies and emerging markets.

Bragazza added healthcare stocks to this list, because no matter how well or badly the economy is doing, people will always need to use their services.

Pick government bonds and high-quality corporate bonds over high-yield bond offerings. Consider bond funds where the average length to maturity is less than five years.

In infrastructure or property, go for funds that directly invest in physical assets such as schools and logistics warehouses rather than funds that invest in the shares of property companies.

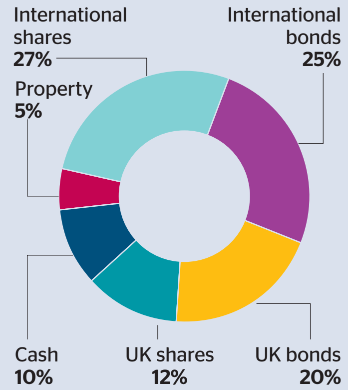
Some will say that young investors have little need to be cautious, but if you are not confident — and sleeping well is a priority — then there's no reason to take bigger risks than you're happy with.

You might find that as you gain experience you become more comfortable with taking risk, Macari said.

Next week: Options for a balanced investor

A careful portfolio

AJ Bell's Moderately Cautious fund



Source: AJ Bell

Online
Follow David Brenchley's investments as he makes his changes
thetimes.co.uk/getrichslowly



£11,500 trapped in the Royal Mint

Times Money Mentor
Troubleshooter

Katherine Denham





In 2020 I bought some precious metals from the Royal Mint as a digital investment. I bought £7,000 in silver, £6,000 in gold and £3,000 in platinum.

I sold some of the investments later that year, and the transaction was processed quickly.

With prices increasing, I recently decided to sell all my investments, currently worth about £11,500.

In March I used the Royal Mint website to place a withdrawal request. I waited a few weeks and when nothing happened I phoned the Royal Mint and was told that it wasn't able to transfer the money to my business bank account.

So I then asked for the money to be sent to the personal bank account that I used in 2020. This didn't work.

I have called and emailed several times but each time I am told that the issue has been referred to the credit-control department and that someone will get back to me. No one has.

I need the money soon to buy a car. Can you help?

Howard Smith, Herefordshire

Troubleshooter says

The Royal Mint is the UK's oldest company and the official maker of Britain's coinage, as well as producing commemorative coins to celebrate big events, such as the coronation of King Charles.

It also offers the chance to invest in precious metals, with customers being given the choice to have their bullion delivered or, like you, have their investments stored in the Royal Mint vaults so that you never see them.

Precious metals have become a popular investment as turbulent markets caused by high inflation and rising interest rates have caused investors to seek safe-haven assets. The price of gold is up 8 per cent since October.

The stock markets tend to have an inverse relationship with gold. So when the FTSE 100 plunged 24 per cent between February and March 2020, the price of gold climbed 10 per cent. While the FTSE 100 and the S&P 500 in the US have moved upwards over the past six months, both stock markets have been volatile.

You had a personal account with the Royal Mint, which meant that your investment proceeds could only be sent to a personal bank account rather than a business one. While this was mentioned in its terms and conditions, you felt that the Royal Mint should have made it clearer.

But once you established that the type of account was the reason that you have not had your £11,500 back why was it still proving so difficult to get the money sent to your personal account?

The Royal Mint wouldn't tell me exactly what had gone wrong but it said: "When customers make withdrawal requests from their account, a verification process takes place to ensure the security of our customers' funds. If verification fails for any reason, we conduct security checks."

While it is possible that these extra security checks slowed down the process, the company told you that the delays were caused by customer-service issues and that it had since hired more staff. The day after I intervened the Royal Mint contacted you to ensure that the money had been sent to your bank account.

While you were pleased, you said it shouldn't have taken six weeks to get your own money. "I do accept that checks need to be carried out to ensure money is not being stolen, but one loses faith when they keep promising to get back to you and don't. It's a good British company, so I hope they get their act together," you said.

I couldn't agree more, but at least you are minted now.

THE TIMES Money Mentor
Online
Investing for beginners: our experts offer their tips
thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor

If you would like us to investigate a consumer problem, write to Troubleshooter, Times Money, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF or troubleshooter@thetimes.co.uk. Please include a phone number

Too many episodes in our TV saga

My wife and I bought a TV from John Lewis in 2021 that came with a five-year guarantee. We paid £599 for the television and £125 for installation.

Last Christmas the TV stopped working so we contacted John Lewis and the firm arranged to collect it. At the end of January it told me that the TV couldn't be repaired. It said it would email us a John Lewis gift card so that we could buy a replacement, but it was only going to send £515 because it said that a TV with a similar specification now costs that much.

After a few weeks with no gift card in sight we called and the agent said it had been sent to the wrong email address. After considerable time on the telephone, we were then told that we needed to wait for it to recall that gift card. Then it was up to us to contact the company again.

In February it agreed to refund the £515 to the bank card we had used to buy the TV. The agent couldn't tell us how long it would take to get that processed, but it said that the finance department would phone us.

No one did. In mid-March, we spent two and a half hours on the phone only to be told that our case had been closed, even though we hadn't received the refund. This happened again and so we lodged a formal complaint. No one has responded to that.

We had been under the impression that John Lewis built its reputation on good customer service, but this is the poorest experience we've ever had.

Jeff Barclay, Liverpool



Troubleshooter says

There seems to be a common theme of companies promising callbacks that never happen. You said you felt like you had been stonewalled and ignored for months.

The reason you hadn't received the gift card was because of a typo — human error meant that your email address had been entered incorrectly.

John Lewis said: "We pride ourselves on great customer service, and are really sorry we fell short in this instance. We have spoken to Mr Barclay directly and arranged for a full refund of the TV."

It sent £599 directly to your bank account and some flowers and chocolates to apologise for the inconvenience.

You said this goodwill gesture was nice but didn't come close to addressing the four months of runaround you had from John Lewis — too much drama, even for someone who isn't getting any from their TV.



Money

Unit trust and open-ended investment company prices Full funds service at thetimes.co.uk/funds

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	-0.62	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	151.57	...	-2.58	4.57
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.77	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	+49.77	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	325.26	...	+1.25	4.51
UK Gwth A ‡@	8148.86	...	+19.86	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-10.08	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-172.31	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2195.79	...	+8.24	3.35
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	+1.71	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	+1.59	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	407.11	...	+0.11	1.87
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-2.12	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	339.98	...	+3.41	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	152.82	...	+1.59	4.33
Global Income R Inc ‡@	96.07	...	+0.99	4.54
Global Select R Acc ‡@	151.82	...	+3.15	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	62.14	...	-0.21	...
Income R Acc ‡@	518.62	...	+0.81	3.77
Income R Inc ‡@	222.65	...	+0.35	3.89
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	63.32	...	-0.12	4.84
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	92.87	...	+1.05	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	95.06	...	-1.08	3.69
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	49.44	...	-0.57	3.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.89	...	-1.07	3.69
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	49.40	...	-0.56	3.76
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	748.06	...	+14.21	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1851.43	...	-7.25	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	716.29	...	+5.84	1.11

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.10	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	-1.50	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-1.00	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3020.00	...	-5.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.93	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	-0.70	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	209.70	...	+0.40	5.97
UK Growth Inc ‡@	219.10	...	-0.70	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1901.00	...	+16.00	1.14
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	261.40	...	-1.30	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	-53.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-32.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	+0.10	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	-1.81	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+1.20	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+0.90	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-18.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	216.60	...	+1.60	1.10
Sus Leaders ‡@	812.60	...	+5.90	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	635.50	...	+6.50	2.04
UK Income ‡@	205.90	...	-0.60	5.09

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.45	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3622.26	...	+53.37	1.02

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	83.66	...	-0.93	4.13
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	329.50	...	+1.60	1.91
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	339.30	...	+6.80	0.53
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	122.90	...	-0.20	4.87
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	225.80	...	+1.10	1.53
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	278.20	...	+0.70	1.16

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.58	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-8.20	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1290.00	...	+9.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.48	...	-0.22	1.88
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	431.80	...	+1.90	2.90
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	310.10	...	+7.20	...
High Inc Trst @	10.99	11.59	+0.01	5.52
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.80	...	-0.17	3.39
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	+0.79	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	+0.45	3.37
North Amer ‡@	836.70	...	+21.80	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	474.50	...	+6.90	...
Strategic Bd ‡@	194.20	...	-1.60	1.46
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+34.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	+2.90	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	+1.00	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1032.00	...	+5.00	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2185.00	...	+24.00	...
American ‡@	5412.00	...	+142.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	607.80	...	+5.30	0.31
European ‡@	3607.00	...	+17.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	22.10	...	-0.15	5.55
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5589.00	...	+121.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2967.00	...	+45.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+1.10	0.08
Japan ‡@	573.40	...	+6.00	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	43.34	...	-0.45	3.86
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-1.90	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	+0.20	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.69	...	-0.41	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	132.18	...	+0.54	3.14
Special Sits ‡@	4513.00	...	-6.00	2.56
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	-0.11	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	32.00	...	-0.49	...
Ethical ‡@	113.40	...	+2.60	0.01
European ‡@	115.70	...	+0.40	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	112.90	...	+1.90	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	136.10	...	+1.60	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	127.90	...	+2.20	1.44
Japanese ‡	72.55	...	+1.24	...
North Amer ‡	152.00	...	+4.00	...
Smaller Cos ‡@	105.30	...	+1.00	1.17
Special Sits ‡@	51.33	...	-0.34	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	92.94	...	+0.04	3.75
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	72.28	...	+0.38	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	81.18	...	+0.42	...
UK Growth ‡@	83.97	...	-0.15	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	935.84	...	+23.35	...
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	741.70	...	-0.70	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1243.34	...	+5.82	2.13
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	773.90	...	-16.77	2.20
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	285.14	...	+1.21	2.99
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	127.33	...	-1.67	3.06
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	291.49	...	+1.69	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	173.80	...	-4.17	2.25
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	723.61	...	+3.19	3.02
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	359.53	...	-4.67	3.09
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	147.77	...	+2.39	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	112.97	...	-0.34	2.25
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	504.97	...	+15.12	...
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	306.73	...	-2.44	...

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	243.94	...	+1.31	0.92
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	+3.09	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	262.93	...	-3.53	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	101.09	...	-1.36	...
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+7.06	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+1.05	...
Income Acc ‡@	729.62	...	+2.38	4.09
Income Inc ‡@	299.36	...	+0.98	4.22
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	-1.33	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	128.96	...	-0.69	3.90
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	149.29	...	+0.73	4.01
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	65.90	...	+0.33	4.13
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	149.29	...	+0.73	4.01
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	65.90	...	+0.33	4.13

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	935.84	...	+23.35	...
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	741.70	...	-0.70	...
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.67	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.59	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	-13.85	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	-11.72	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	-10.00	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	-8.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	+1.71	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-1.59	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-2.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-1.17	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-1.19	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-1.47	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	+2.16	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	+0.86	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	+2.83	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-2.35	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	+0.95	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+1.59	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	+0.63	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-0.26	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	-8.40	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	-6.93	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	+0.24	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.32	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-2.78	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	476.08	...	+0.77	2.27
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	197.19	...	-2.59	...
High Income Inc ‡@	320.19	...	+0.15	3.93
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	424.94	...	+0.53	3.03
Income Inc ‡@	1257.40	...	-0.35	3.49
Money Acc ‡@	93.10	...	+0.06	1.65
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	90.70	...	-0.29	6.18
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	+0.90	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	920.40	...	-0.71	1.62
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1345.67	...	-0.77	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	-1.65	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	695.62	...	+22.99	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	738.70	...	+12.69	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	+8.50	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	374.72	...	-3.18	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	234.79	...	-1.99	1.90
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	127.62	...	-2.09	0.60
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	135.14	...	-2.21	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	321.15	...	-2.50	2.82
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.76	...	-0.52	4.24
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	112.41	...	-0.85	4.84
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.06	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.27	...	-0.48	6.70
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	144.91	...	+2.70	0.96
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	182.53	...	-1.18	5.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	70.72	...	-0.46	5.26
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-1.26	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-4.54	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+5.98	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+4.52	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+46.14	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+6.88	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-4.81	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	234.40	...	+4.45	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	311.77	...	+8.24	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1256.29	...	+32.28	0.38
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	199.85	...	-5.83	0.80
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	319.13	...	+4.25	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	246.85	...	+3.29	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	277.66	...	-8.23	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+2.02	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.42	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.92	...	-0.43	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.50	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.23	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.39	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	-0.07	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2730.90	...	+18.57	1.95
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+5.67	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4668.28	...	-7.27	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4187.16	...	-6.52	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1424.10	...	-7.89	1.54
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	510.50	...	-2.82	1.57



For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	111.80	...	-1.80	2.12
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	76.63	...	+0.93	6.03
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	286.80	...	-2.50	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	140.20	...	-1.20	...
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1086.00	...	...	0.28
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	189.90	...	+3.00	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	306.20	...	+2.20	1.15
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2340.00	...	+28.00	1.15
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	28.35	...	-0.60	4.79
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4231.00	...	+73.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	67.62	...	+0.56	3.28
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3092.00	...	+143.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	117.17	...	+0.53	2.87
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	163.90	...	-1.30	0.81
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	257.70	...	+1.20	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	146.80	...	-0.50	2.71
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	188.70	...	-0.60	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	201.30	...	-3.10	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	54.66	...	-0.88	1.84
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	102.00	...	-2.70	3.26
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	170.50	...	+0.70	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	141.20	...	+0.70	1.12
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	+6.60	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.38	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	+0.15	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1766.00	...	+55.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	-1.80	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+1.30	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+8.30	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+24.20	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+62.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.40	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.38	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.60	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.40	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+12.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+25.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+4.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+20.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+18.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+27.20	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	-73.10	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.60	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.61	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.35	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-1.30	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+6.80	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+4.90	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	-4.70	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	-0.54	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	+2.30	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	+0.88	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+12.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+4.30	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+18.80	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+5.70	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+2.87	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+14.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+26.90	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.85	...	-0.38	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	96.78	...	+0.40	...
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-72.04	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	471.65	...	+3.54	...
European ‡@	3017.18	...	+25.55	...
Financial Opps ‡@	698.21	...	+6.63	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	509.82	...	-0.27	3.92
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	231.90	...	-0.78	2.05
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	543.34	...	+4.95	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	344.11	...	-0.18	2.86
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	380.63	...	+2.26	...
UK Growth ‡@	265.58	...	+2.96	0.67
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	208.03	...	-0.69	2.15

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	+17.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	+5.60	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	547.80	...	+3.40	2.11
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	358.90	...	+2.30	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	129.10	...	-1.80	2.35
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	60.18	...	-0.86	2.38
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	+0.60	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	109.90	...	-0.10	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	99.51	...	+5.00	...
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-2.10	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	122.20	...	-0.60	...
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	72.00	...	+1.03	1.75
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	201.20	...	+5.00	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+7.60	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	+1.80	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	354.30	...	+1.50	3.11
UK Index Dist ‡@	168.30	...	+0.70	3.19
US Ind Acc ‡@	821.50	...	+20.10	...
Worldwide Acc ‡@	339.50	...	+2.60	0.73

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1467.14	...	-3.83	5.51

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	+6.31	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	+5.55	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	692.65	...	-9.16	5.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	73.87	...	-1.53	2.59
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	39.04	...	-0.14	5.66
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	109.45	...	-4.50	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	78.53	...	+0.35	3.63
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.95	...	-0.05	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2842.84	...	+23.21	2.27

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.99	...	-0.49	...
Dividend Inc ‡	52.90	...	-0.17	5.79
Recovery A Inc ‡	109.70	...	+0.41	3.50
Sml Cos Inc ‡	329.35	...	-1.48	2.41

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.56	...	+0.42	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
High Income	84.99	84.99	-0.90	4.19
High Income Acc	240.50	240.50	-2.50	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	467.00	467.00	+1.50	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	229.40	229.40	+0.70	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	348.10	348.10	+3.50	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	720.40	720.40	+7.40	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	942.10	942.10	+3.00	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	551.00	551.00	+1.70	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	759.65	...	-0.50	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	755.40	...	-0.52	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	931.75	...	+4.29	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	852.15	...	+3.93	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	930.24	...	+4.27	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	850.60	...	+3.90	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	937.05	...	+2.54	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	917.29	...	+2.49	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	935.75	...	+2.53	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	917.07	...	+2.47	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1331.77	...	+7.50	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1855.42	...	+10.35	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1424.08	...	+7.94	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1604.67	...	+1.93	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13876.98	...	+98.45	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1531.18	...	+1.84	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3798.97	...	+26.96	...
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	555.87	...	+7.57	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	555.87	...	+7.57	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	553.03	...	+7.49	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	553.04	...	+7.50	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1185.75	...	+14.12	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1266.10	...	+22.85	0.62
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1283.53	...	+23.13	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1183.85	...	+13.95	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1290.81	...	+23.30	0.62
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	118.95	...	-1.42	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	93.04	...	-1.11	3.40
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2528.82	...	-30.22	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1319.86	...	-15.77	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	931.29	...	-6.89	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	886.17	...	-6.56	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	926.77	...	-6.90	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	885.88	...	-6.60	...
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1533.20	...	+45.89	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	869.36	...	+19.56	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1630.05	...	+48.70	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	910.60	...	+20.34	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	...	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	232.90	...	+0.40	1.18
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	201.10	...	+1.30	5.12
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+6.00	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	268.90	268.90	+0.90	3.11
UK Growth Acc ‡@	462.30	...	+3.70	3.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	243.50	...	+2.00	3.26

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+12.14	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	+3.79	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	-0.13	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.57	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-73.67	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	901.03	950.96	+13.17	...
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+19.24	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-5.79	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	+29.21	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	-8.90	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	-0.10	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	-0.70	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	-0.50	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3602.00	...	+33.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	395.40	...	+1.80	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	195.90	...	+0.90	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	279.90	...	-3.70	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	103.10	...	-1.30	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	390.90	...	-3.10	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	230.40	...	-0.80	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.54	...	-0.23	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	384.70	...	-1.10	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	119.30	...	-0.40	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	-0.14	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	186.00	...	-1.20	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	81.00	...	-0.54	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	200.90	...	-0.20	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2389.00	...	-8.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	436.70	...	+2.00	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	194.70	...	+0.90	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.40	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.10	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.60	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	+8.00	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	129.60	...	-0.20	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	+8.00	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	88.07	...	-0.88	1.38
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	49.39	...	-0.49	1.39
AAA Income Acc ‡@	95.99	...	-0.95	1.79
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	205.50	...	+5.00	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	153.40	...	-2.20	3.24
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	50.92	...	-0.72	3.31
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	...	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	149.40	...	+0.80	1.38
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	197.30	...	+1.10	1.35
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	162.70	...	+3.80	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	145.30	...	+0.10	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.78	...	+0.02	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	-0.30	...
Managed Acc ‡@	369.40	...	+3.90	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	-0.06	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.29	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	-0.20	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	-0.10	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	271.20	...	+0.30	4.49
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	73.39	...	+0.07	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	207.00	...	+1.90	2.22
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	-1.90	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	-1.70	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	760.20	...	+4.20	0.66

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	134.73	...	+0.79	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	119.79	...	+0.71	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	111.36	...	-0.58	1.81
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.87	...	-0.49	1.83
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	330.12	...	+4.23	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	296.20	...	+3.79	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	339.28	...	+3.25	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	246.39	...	-0.08	...
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	+1.39	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	+0.54	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	130.14	...	...	1.50

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.38	...	+0.06	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	79.32	...	-0.23	3.55
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	52.83	...	-0.71	2.57
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	52.73	...	-0.71	2.23
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	42.76	...	-0.96	2.46
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.38	...	-0.24	3.65
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	101.45	...	-0.08	3.40
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	94.16	...	+0.20	2.72
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	185.77	...	+0.60	1.83
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	69.60	...	-0.04	4.12
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	140.43	...	+0.93	1.43
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	357.06	...	+2.10	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
British	966.00	966.00	+0.30	...
European	210.70	219.40	+3.90	...

This list contains unit trusts and Oeics widely held by private investors. The weekly price change is based on a Friday-to-Thursday trading period.* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Best buys

Data supplied by Moneyfacts Best Buy

Savings

Easy access (without introductory bonus)

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Hanley Economic BS	via branch	Branch Saver	£1,000	4.25%
Yorkshire Building Society	via website	Online Rainy Day 2	£1	3.85%
Chip	via app	Instant Access	£1	3.71%
Chorley Building Society	via website	Easy Access Saver	£500	3.70%
GB Bank	via website	Raisin - Easy Access	£1,000	3.70%

Long-term fixed rates

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (4 yr)	£1,000	4.95% F
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (5 yr)	£1,000	4.95% F
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (7 yr)	£1,000	4.95% F
United Trust Bank	via website	UTB Bond (4 yr)	£5,000	4.91% F
United Trust Bank	via website	UTB Bond (5 yr)	£5,000	4.90% F

Easy-access cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Yorkshire Building Society	via website	Limited e-Isa	£1	3.60%
Chorley Building Society	via website	Easy Access Isa	£1	3.55%
Paragon Bank	via website	Triple Access Isa - 13	£1	3.51%
Cynergy Bank	via website	Online Isa (36)	£1	3.50%
Marcus by Goldman Sachs®	via website	Cash Isa	£1	3.50% A

Fixed-cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Virgin Money	via website	Fixed E-Isa 580 (24.5.26)	£1	4.41% F
Shawbrook Bank	via website	Fixed Isa 45 (3 yr)	£1,000	4.37% F
Secure Trust Bank	via website	Fixed Isa (25.6.26)	£1,000	4.35% F
Hampshire Trust Bank	via website	Isa Bond (6) (3 yr)	£1	4.25% F
Leeds BS	via website	Fixed Isa (139) (30.6.26)	£100	4.25% F

Lifetime cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Moneybox	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa	£1	3.50% A
Beehive Money	via website	Homebuyer Lifetime Isa	£1	3.00%
Beehive Money	via website	Retirement Lifetime Isa	£1	3.00%
Paragon Bank	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa - 3	£1	2.50%
Newcastle BS	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa (3)	£1	2.50%

Regular savings accounts

Provider	Contact	Account	Min Mntly	AER
NatWest	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Royal Bank of Scotland	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Bank of Scotland	via website	Monthly Saver	£25	5.50% F
Halifax	via website	Regular Saver	£25	5.50% F
Nationwide BS	via website	Start to Save 2	£0	5.25% V

Pension annuities

Single life

Provider	Contact	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£2,897.76	£3,226.92	£3,656.28
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£2,852.88	£3,176.40	£3,570.60
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£2,748.61	£3,102.54	£3,534.49
Just	0345 302 2287	£2,646.00	£3,014.40	£3,376.08

Joint life

Provider	Contact	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£2,582.04	£2,778.24	£3,077.28
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£2,508.48	£2,700.96	£2,961.24
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£2,325.93	£2,525.67	£2,789.84
Just	0345 302 2287	£2,305.44	£2,508.12	£2,717.64

Based on a pension pot of £50,000

Mortgages

First-time buyer mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	5.34%F	for 2 years	95%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Furness BS	0800 220568	5.54%F	for 2 years	95%	-	1st 2 yrs
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	5.24%F	for 3 years	95%	£999	1st 3 yrs
Hanley Economic BS	01782 255000	4.89%F	to 31.7.28	95%	-	To 31.7.28
Cumberland BS	01228 403141	4.93%F	to 1.7.28	95%	-	To 1.7.28

Remortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge Until
first direct	0800 482448	4.39% F	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44% F	for 2 years	75%	£490	1st 2 yrs
Lloyds Bank	0800 783 3534	3.88% F	to 31.8.28	60%	£999	To 31.8.28
Lloyds Bank	0800 783 3534	4.01% F	to 31.8.28	75%	£999	To 31.8.28
first direct	0800 482448	4.19% F	for 5 years	80%	£490	1st 5 yrs

Short-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.39%	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44%	for 2 years	75%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.89%	for 2 years	90%	£490	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	0808 256 6876	4.39%	to 31.8.26	75%	£999	To 31.8.26
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	4.69%	for 3 years	90%	£999	1st 3 yrs

Long-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.03%	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.09%	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.29%	for 5 years	85%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44%	for 5 years	90%	£490	1st 5 yrs
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	4.34%	for 10 yrs	85%	£999	1st 10 yrs

Discounted variable-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn Charge Until
Leek Building Society	0808 169 6680	4.10%	for 2 years	80%	£995	1st 2 yrs
Leek Building Society	0808 169 6680	4.50%	for 2 years	85%	-	1st 2 yrs
Newbury BS	01635 555777	4.24%	for 3 years	75%	£600	1st 3 yrs
Tipton & Coseley BS	0800 833853	4.74%	to 31.7.26	90%	£999	To 31.7.26
Chorley BS	01257 235001	4.80%	for 5 years	90%	£999	1st 5 yrs

Buy-to-let mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Loughborough BS	01509 631950	4.69% D	for 2 years	80%	-	1st 2 yrs
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	4.55% D	to 31.8.25	60%	-	To 31.8.25
NatWest	0800 587 6599	4.81% F	to 30.9.25	75%	£995	To 30.9.25
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	4.28% F	to 31.8.28	60%	£1,395	To 31.8.28
HSBC	0800 256 6876	4.41% F	to 31.8.28	75%	£1,999	To 31.8.28

The selections above are based on a combination of initial rate, fee and incentive available

National Savings & investments

Accounts and bonds

	Notice or term	Min	AER	Interest paid
Green Savings Bonds 4	3 Yr Bnd	£100	4.20% F	Yearly
Income Bonds	None	£500	2.89% V	Monthly
Direct Saver	None	£1	2.85% V	Yearly

Tax-free products

	Notice or term	Min	AER	Interest paid
Junior Isa	Age 18	£1	3.40%	Yearly
Direct Isa	None	£1	2.40%	Yearly

Personal loans

Fixed monthly repayment on £10,000 for 5 years

Provider	Contact	Rep APR	Amount per month	Total repaid
HSBC	via website	4.8%	£187.33	£11,239.80
M&S Bank	via website	4.9%	£187.76	£11,265.60
AA	via website	5.0%	£188.20	£11,292.00
Bank of Ireland UK	via website	5.0%	£188.20	£11,292.00

Borrowing rates and availability of products are subject to credit ratings

Credit cards

Introductory rate for balance transfers

Provider	Contact	Product name	Transfer	Bal trans fee	Purch APR
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Plat Bal Trans Visa	0% 1st 30 mths	2.98%	23.9%
NatWest	0345 788 8444	Longer Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 30 mths	2.99%	23.9%
RBS	0345 724 2424	Longer Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 30 mths	2.99%	23.9%
Tesco Bank	0345 300 4278	C'card CC Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 30 mths	3.49%	22.9%
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Longest Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 29 mths	3.49%	22.9%

Introductory rate for purchases

Provider	Contact	Product name	Introductory term	Purch APR
NatWest	0345 788 8444	Purchase & Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 23 mths	23.9%
RBS	0345 724 2424	Purchase & Bal Trans MC	0% 1st 23 mths	23.9%
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Plat All-Rounder Visa	0% 1st 22 mths	23.9%
HSBC	0345 7404 404	Purchase Plus CC Visa	0% 1st 20 mths	23.9%
M&S Bank	0800 997 996	Shopping Plus Offer MC	0% 1st 18 mths	23.9%

Cashback credit card

Provider	Contact	Product name	Purchase APR	Cashback
American Express	0800 917 8047	Platinum Cashback	35.0% Intro	0.75% - 1.25% standard 5%/3mth (max £125)
American Express	0800 917 8047	Plat Cashback Everyday	29.4% Intro	0.50% - 1.00% standard 5%/3mth (max £100)
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.50% on spend over £1 per year
Lloyds Bank	0345 602 1997	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.50% on spend over £1 per year
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Rewards Visa	25.9%	Standard 0.25% on spend over £1 per year

Borrowing rates and products are subject to credit ratings. Terms apply to all cashback

Current accounts

Credit interest

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	Reward
Halifax	0345 720 3040	Reward Current Account	None	£5 pm C
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	0800 30 20 10	FlexDirect	None	5% A
Kroo Bank Ltd	kroo.com	Current Account	None	3.33%
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	2.02%

Arranged overdrafts

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	EAR	Usage Fee
Starling Bank	via website	Current Account	None	15.0%	£0
first direct	0345 600 2424	1st Account	None	39.9%	£250
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	19.9%	£0
Lloyds Bank	0800 015 4000	Club Lloyds	£3pm	27.5%	£50
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	39.9%	£100

Current account interest rates paid up to a specified level, terms may apply.
A = Provider operates under Islamic finance principles, rate shown is expected profit rate.
B = Introductory rate. C = Paid net of income tax. D = Discounted variable rate.
F = Fixed rate. V = Variable rate. All savings rates AER variable unless stated otherwise.
All rates and terms subject to change. No liability can be accepted for loss arising from use of this information. Visit Moneyfactscompare.co.uk for full details.

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Money

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.

12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

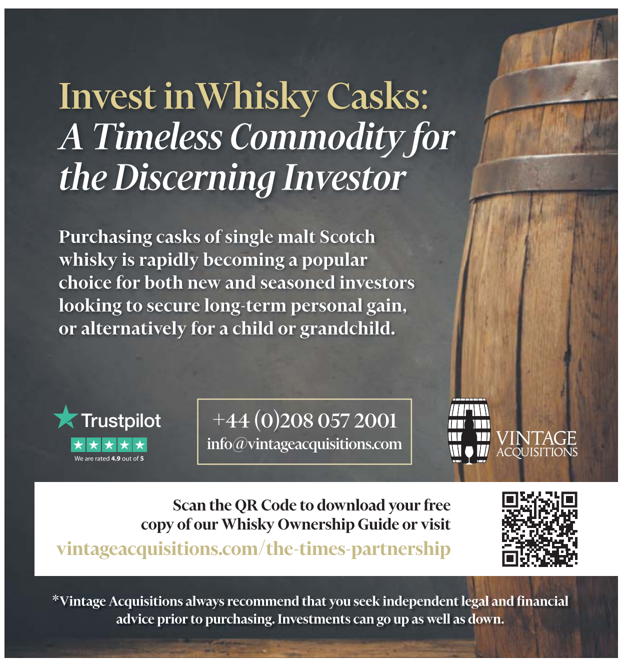
12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	267⅞	+ 7⅞	...	-1.6

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	**Abrdn**	211⅞	+ ¾	...	4.6
2361	1729	**Admiral**‡	2249	+ 22	...	11.4
71⅞	24½	ADVFN♦	24½	...	...	4.2
390	255½	AJ Bell	318¾	− 1¾	...	29.8
27093⅞	20028	Aon Corpn	26174¾	+ 106	...	63.8
42¾	23⅞	Appreciate Group♦	42¾	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	927½	− 10	...	20.5
14	9	Argo Group♦	9	...	...	4.1
286⅞	180⅞	Ashmore	234	+ 1	...	7.9
1384½	1118½	Aus New Z	1282⅞	+ 17⅞	...	10.0
467⅞	373⅞	**Aviva**	413⅛	+ ½	...	54.4
341½	193⅞	Banco Santander	278½	+ 3½	...	6.6
3375	1306	Bank of Georgia	3270	− 50	...	10.1
189⅞	133⅞	**Barclays**	159⅞	+ 1¼	...	3.8
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.1
346	277	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	321	...	...	8.8
14	6½	Braveheart Inv♦	11¾	...	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint‡	220⅞	+ 2	...	13.8
67	35	Cenkos Secs♦	37	− ½	...	7.5
325	262½	Chesnara‡	286	+ 6	...	15.8
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	450	+ 5½	...	10.5
1148	858½	Close Bros	931	+ 11½	...	6.9
317	167	CMC Markets	180	− 1½	...	5.5
1036½	497½	Commerzbk	848⅞	− 11½	...	43.5
1071	659½	Deutsche Bk	848⅞	+ 1⅞	...	9.9
260⅞	135	Direct Line Ins	162½	− ⅝	...	6.7
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6	...	Drumz♦	5	...	...	...
128⅞	60⅞	EFG-Hermes Hldg	64⅞	− 7⅞	...	4.1
212	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	157½	...	...	8.8
1230½	810⅞	FBD	1123½	...	...	4.9
72½	67½	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	68½	...	...	39.8
849	548	Georgia Capital	849	+ 8	...	2.3
915	682	Gresham House♦‡	775	− 5	...	31.1
506	320	H&T Group♦‡	422	+ 4	...	13.5
52½	33	Hansard Global	47⅞	...	...	16.5
983	740⅞	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	811⅞	+ 12⅞	...	14.4
174⅞	143⅞	Helios Under♦	172½	+ 5	...	...
647½	442⅞	**HSBC**‡	610⅞	− 2	...	13.3
847½	648	IG Group	703½	− 1	...	7.1
883	500	Impax♦	822	+ 8	...	27.1
1612	953⅞	Intermed Capital	1325	+ 29½	...	7.6
114	64⅞	IPF	106½	− ½	...	5.9
170	136	International Public P'ship	140½	− ½	...	18.1
546⅞	351½	Investec	439	− 9	...	11.0
330	253	Investment Co	330	+ 5	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group	56⅞	+ ½	...	2.1
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	155	...	...	11.1
179½	83⅞	Jupiter Fund Mgmt‡	119⅞	− 1	...	4.4
95¼	55⅞	Just Group	93⅛	+ 1⅞	...	...
664	368⅞	Lancashire Holdings‡	633	− ⅝	...	...
284⅞	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	235⅞	+ 2⅞	...	7.2
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅞	− 2⅞	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	816	+ 6½	...	10.2
55¼	38	Livermore Invs♦	41	...	...	2.6
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Group**	48½	+ ¼	...	6.4
34⅞	22	LMS Capital	23⅞	− ⅛	...	10.0
8582	6738	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8436	+ 72	...	86.2
222⅞	159⅞	**M&G**	201	+ 1⅞	...	62.8
286⅞	204⅞	Man‡	217⅞	+ 7⅞	...	8.7
29	8	Manx Fin♦	24½	...	...	12.4
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	...	...	0.7
14635⅞	11633⅞	Marsh McLn	14468¼	+ 46⅞	...	30.1
745	530	Mattioli Woods♦	640	...	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅞	69	Metro Bank	104	+ 1	...	-0.7
1744⅞	1381⅞	Nat Aust Bk	1434⅞	+ 21⅞	...	14.2
309⅞	212⅞	**NatWest**	268⅞	+ ½	...	10.5
341	170⅞	Numis♦‡	334	+ ½	...	6.8
587½	375⅞	Onesavings Bank	509½	...	...	6.7
652	422	PayPoint	422	− 4	...	13.2
6½	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
684⅞	506⅞	**Phoenix**	575⅞	+ 5	...	-6.6
260	136⅞	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797⅞	**Prudential**	1178	+ 14	...	19.1
2⅞	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1½	...	...	-8.2
142⅞	80⅞	Quilter‡	84½	+ 1⅞	...	60.3
140¼	57⅞	Randall & Quilter♦	60	...	...	89.4
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1966	+ 8	...	15.2
1⅞	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2050	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2050	+ 10	...	3.0
2500	1905	S & U	2500	+ 30	...	11.8
2	¾	Sancus Lending Grp♦	¾	...	...	-0.3
56¾	40⅞	Schroder REIT	43⅞	...	...	4.6
604⅞	358⅞	**Schroders**	468⅞	+ 5	...	2.1
1304½	920	**St James Place**‡	1145	+ 20	...	21.8
790⅞	519⅞	**Stand Chart**	634	− 8½	...	14.2
12	7⅞	Starvest♦	7½	...	...	-1.2
29	22½	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
4118⅞	3225½	Sun Life Can	4000⅞	+ 19	...	10.2
10	5⅞	Tavistock Inv♦	7⅞	...	...	1.2
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2490	+ 15	...	7.2
16¾	4	Tern♦	4¼	...	...	3.2
29½	15¼	Time Finance♦	29½	...	...	17.8
1245	900	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	21	+ ½	...	11.8
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3908⅞	2919⅞	Wells Fargo	3204	− 28⅞	...	8.7
1305⅞	1022⅞	Westpac	1136¼	+ 14⅞	...	15.3
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	29½	− ⅞	...	91.2
40749⅞	34662½	Zurich Fincl	38153⅞	+ 855⅞	...	14.9

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1936½	1042	**3i Group**	1929½	+ 12	...	16.6
363	281½	3i Infrastructure	325	− ½	...	-3.5
102½	80½	Abrdn Div I&G	88	+ ⅝	...	-25.6
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1274	− 4	...	-13.4
1046	876	Alliance	1006	+ 4	...	-6.5
457	345	Asia Dragon Tr	381	− 1	...	-13.2
230	174	Athelney Trust	185	− 5	...	-17.3
206½	171½	AVI Global Trust	192½	+ 1	...	-10.4
348	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	228	+ ½	...	-13.8
102½	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	95⅞	+ ¾	...	-14.8
829	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	764	+ 1	...	-9.2
168	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	146⅞	+ ⅞	...	-10.2
183	139½	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	169⅞	+ 2⅞	...	-14.7
109½	90⅞	Bankers	100⅞	− ⅛	...	-10.7
5232	380	BH Macro	412½	− ½	...	3.2
1048	745½	Biotech Growth	840	+ 5	...	-8.5
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	119½	+ 2	...	-9.0
144½	116½	BlckRck Fro Inv	136	+ ½	...	-9.9
560	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	557	+ 5	...	-2.9
206	165	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	188	− 1	...	-11.4
457	330	BlckRck Latin Am	382	+ 4	...	-14.4
215	180	BlckRck SustAm	187	+ 1¾	...	-6.5
1526	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1316	+ 4	...	-13.1
670	477½	BlckRck Throgmorton	596	+ 4	...	-5.3
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min	630	+ 2	...	0.5
325	256	CT Cap&Inc	312	+ 7	...	-4.4
124¼	63⅞	Balanced Comm Prop	79¼	+ 1⅞	...	-34.2
162⅞	122	The Glbl Smaller	146¼	+ ⅝	...	-13.8
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord	504	− 4	...	-28.2
96½	60	CT Real Estate	63⅞	+ 1	...	-35.9
90	71	CT UK HIT	83	...	...	-9.1
93	79	CT UK HIT B	91	...	...	-0.5
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	334	...	...	-8.6
1335	1072½	Brown Advsr US Sm	1215	+ 12½	...	-14.5
1115	888	Brunner	1070	+ 5	...	-12.1
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3570	+ 35	...	-30.1
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	+ ½	...	1.3
432	366½	City of Lon IT	415½	+ 2½	...	1.9
122	75	Crystal Amber Fd	80	+ 1	...	-34.0
580	454	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.0
690	537	Edinburgh IT	676	+ 5	...	-8.0
214	146½	Edin Wwide	149⅞	− 1	...	-17.6
336	268	EP Global Opp	330	+ 3	...	-10.1
105	74½	European Assets	93½	+ ⅛	...	-5.7
796	608	European Opp Tr	781	+ 9	...	-12.6
989	760	**F&C Invest Tr**	903	+ 2	...	-4.3
530⅞	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	518	− 2	...	-1.5
294½	178½	Fidelity China Sp	224	− 3	...	-9.8
361	258½	Fidlty Euro Val	359	+ 2	...	-4.3
182¾	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	181½	+ 1½	...	-9.5
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	282½	− 1½	...	-4.7
923	731⅞	Fins Gwth & Inc	904	+ 1	...	-4.1
118⅞	63⅞	GCP Infrastructure	88½	− ⅞	...	-19.6
659⅞	552⅞	Gen Emer Mkts	587	...	...	-13.9
45	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	31⅞	− ½	...	-15.1
168½	130⅞	Greencoat UK Wind	154⅞	− ⅝	...	-7.6
194⅞	166	Hansa Investment	172	− 2	...	-42.7
196	163	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	168⅞	+ 1½	...	-43.7
2489	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2185	− 5	...	-44.2
165½	120	Hend Euro Foc	159	+ 2	...	-12.1
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	167½	− 4	...	...
952	674¼	Hend Smlr	815	− 1	...	-13.0
1966	1540	Herald	1758	+ 8	...	-14.8
418	310	HgCapital Trust	374	+ ½	...	-20.0
183⅞	138⅞	HICL Infra	151⅞	+ ½	...	-9.7
450	216	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
1223½	928	ICG Ent Tr	1148	+ 24	...	-41.0
486⅞	373⅞	Impax Env Mkts	415½	+ 2½	...	-4.3
374	279	Invesco Asia Tr	321	+ 3	...	-13.3
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	+ ½	...	1.3
157⅞	110½	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-13.9
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	232	+ 1	...	-14.2
101⅞	92	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
186	141	IPST UK Eq	162	− ½	...	-13.3
504	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	432	+ 2	...	-11.9
800	650	JPM American	728	− 1	...	-3.5
402	322	JPM Asia	353	+ 4	...	-9.0
451½	239⅞	JPM Chinese	273	− 4½	...	-9.7
726	624	JPM Claverhs	688	+ 4	...	-3.6
120⅞	91	JPM Em Mkts	104⅞	...	...	-9.9
449	339	JPM Euro disc	418	+ 5	...	-14.5
142½	107½	JPM GEMI	128½	+ 1	...	-10.5
481	386	JPM GG&I	464	+ 1	...	0.8
898	719⅞	JPM Indian	806	+ 4	...	-18.0
353	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	316	− 1	...	-12.0
510	408½	JPM Japan‡	489	...	...	-8.7
1012	735	JPM Mid Cap	910	+ 4	...	-15.3
104	85½	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	94½	...	...	-2.6
-0.700	134⅞	"JPM Em E	GBX	+ 110⅞	...	...
315	230	JPM Smllr Co	273	− 2½	...	-13.1
244½	174	Keystone IT	209	...	...	-17.1
871	649	Law Debenture	820	+ 6	...	1.9
135	99	Lowland	124	+ 3	...	-10.5
223	156⅞	Majedie	210	+ 1	...	-16.9
354	272⅞	M Currie Pot	348	+ 1	...	-0.1
117	89⅞	Marwyn Val In	96½	...	...	-41.9
222	158⅞	Mercantile IT	203½	...	...	-14.3
606	480	Merchants	572	+ 3	...	1.2
768	639⅞	Mid Wynd	690	...	...	-3.7
1102	875	Monks Inv Tst	1002	− 2	...	-10.3
151⅞	104⅞	Montanaro Eur Sml	141⅞	+ 1	...	-12.3
897	715	Murray Income Trust	867	+ 6	...	-7.5
275⅞	225⅞	Murray Int	268⅞	+ 1⅞	...	1.8
85½	70⅞	Nb Global Floating	73⅞	+ ½	...	-7.6
384	258	Pacific Assets	363	+ 3	...	-5.9
309	229⅞	Pantheon Int	270½	+ 1	...	-40.9
3115	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2732	− 34	...	-36.5
501½	463⅞	Personal Assets	478½	− ½	...	-0.4
2288⅞	1697⅞	Polar Cap Tech	2105	− 5	...	-13.1
202	130	Prem Glb & Inf	144½	...	...	-15.8
148½	112⅞	Renewables Inf	121⅞	− 1⅞	...	-8.4
2570	1789⅞	RIT Cap Ptnr	1940	− 6	...	-17.7
750	530⅞	Riverstone	564	+ 4	...	-53.2
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	416	+ 4	...	-4.1
549⅞	446	Schrd Asia Pac	491½	...	...	-11.6
324	254½	Schrd Inc Gwth	310	+ 7	...	-2.2
220⅞	187	Schrd Jap Gwth	219	...	...	-10.9
626	454	Schrd UKMid	564	...	...	-13.2
24¼	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	14⅞	+ ½	...	-49.3
543	434	Scot American	542	+ 3	...	1.1
937⅞	604⅞	**Scot Mtge**	647⅞	+ 12⅞	...	-22.1
242	205	Secs Tst Scot	221	+ 2	...	-1.7
99⅞	75½	Sequoia Eco	82⅞	+ ⅞	...	-10.1
249½	195⅞	Temple Bar	229½	+ 1	...	-5.6
166	128½	Tplton Emg Mkt	147	− ⅛	...	-14.3
⅜	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
421	263	TR Property	284	+ 1	...	-8.7
76	64⅞	Troy Inc&Gth	72⅞	+ 1	...	-2.5
230	122	Utilico Ord	146½	+ ½	...	-28.7
229	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	227	...	...	-12.5
712	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	554	+ 7	...	-16.4
237½	199⅞	Witan	233	+ ½	...	-10.0
3500	2820	Ww Health	3300	...	...	-9.4



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	174	...	...	8.8
14½	8⅞	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
71¾	47⅞	Assura	51⅞	− ⅝	...	10.3
2⅞	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅞	247⅞	Balfour Beatty‡	387⅞	− 2½	...	18.3
514	323⅞	**Barratt Devs**	499⅞	− 7⅞	...	7.8
2486	1586½	Bellway	2466	− 34	...	7.4
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	4234	− 104	...	11.0
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1165	+ 11	...	7.6
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	420	− 5	...	34.1
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	243	+ 8	...	12.9
536	324⅞	**Br Land**	356⅞	+ 5⅞	...	48.7
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
64¾	43¾	Cap & Regnl‡	55½	+ ½	...	-0.4
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop	2370	...	...	25.7
25	2½	Carecapital♦	7½	...	...	-0.8
170	106	Clarke T‡	153½	+ 6¼	...	11.0
293⅞	191⅞	Countryside Partner	229⅞	+ 14	...	16.7
28⅞	6	Craven House♦	13⅞	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	**CRH**	4013	+ 17	...	16.6
3044	1876	Derwent London‡	2200	+ 8	...	9.8
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3⅞	...	...	-2.6
31½	22	First Prop♦	28	+ ½	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	37¼	− ⅝	...	...
185¼	145	Galliford Try	178⅞	− 2½	...	39.6
470	252⅞	Genuit Group‡	326½	− 12½	...	19.7
590	335	Gleeson (MJ)	454	− 8	...	7.1
988⅞	630½	Grafton	868	+ 8⅞	...	10.0
312⅞	205⅞	Grainger	256½	+ 1½	...	15.9
658½	409⅞	Great Portland	502	+ 4½	...	-6.2
30½	17½	Hammerson	25	− ⅛	...	-2.6
171	101	Harworth Gp‡	125	...	...	4.3
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
442	274	Helical PLC	286½	+ 12⅞	...	6.9
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208½	148½	Ibstock	167	...	...	21.6
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	212	...	...	22.5
849	591	Keller	706	− 10	...	8.2
6771⅞	3895⅞	Kingspan Group	5611⅞	− 13	...	22.0
774½	485¼	**Land Sec**	628⅞	+ 7⅞	...	...
101	58	Life Science Reit	75	− ⅝	...	...
25	13	Lon & Assoc	13	...	...	-1.7
261	161⅞	Londonmetric Property	185½	+ 1½	...	3.9
61⅞	37	Macau Prop Op	59½	− ¼	...	-7.7
545½	225⅞	Marshalls	299¼	+ 2	...	10.9
115½	74	Michelmersh♦	92	...	...	14.6
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall	1856	+ 26	...	9.0
13900	10800	Mountview	11100	...	...	13.8
99½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	84½	+ ½	...	-2.9
291	195	Palace Capital	240	− 3	...	11.4
335	260	Panther Securities♦	300	− 10	...	2.7
2254	1138½	**Persimmon**	1307	− 36	...	5.3
5½	2	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.5
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅞	Primary Health Properties	105½	+ ½	...	10.7
39	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	30½	...	...	3.9
585	372½	Redrow	540	− 2	...	6.7
1177	794	Safestore	948½	+ 8½	...	5.3
1190	763½	Savills‡	917½	+ 8½	...	9.1
6¼	5⅞	Secure Property♦	5⅞	...	...	14.8
1129	694	**Segro**	808	+ 5¾	...	2.3
44⅞	27⅞	SIG	41¼	...	...	...
69	37⅞	SigmaRoc♦	60½	+ ¾	...	...
116⅞	66½	Sirius Real Estate	79½	+ 1¼	...	6.2
173½	160⅞	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	30½	Steppe Cement♦	37¾	...	...	8.5
132⅞	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	123⅞	− 2¼	...	8.1
178½	129	Town Centre‡	147	+ 6	...	5.8
1223½	738	Travis Perkins	921	− 14⅞	...	8.9
204⅞	125⅞	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	143⅞	+ ⅝	...	2.6
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox	63	− 1⅞	...	...
306½	184⅞	Tyman‡	265½	+ 5½	...	10.4
1207	791⅞	**Unite**‡	912½	+ 12½	...	10.6
938½	519½	Vistry Group‡	826½	− 24½	...	7.2
166	91	Warehouse REIT	105¼	+ ½	...	2.4
722	343⅞	Workspace Grp	477⅞	+ 8⅞	...	-7.0
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	665	+ 15	...	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5¾	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	35½	− ½	...	13.1
952	740	Anglo-Eastern	880	+ 40	...	8.0
306	147½	Animalcare♦	185	+ 2½	...	...
2070	1237	**AB Foods**	1895	− 10½	...	31.3
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	95	+ ½	...	9.9
561	432	Barr (AG)‡	520	+ 2	...	18.4
3⅞	1½	Bidstack Group♦	1¾	...	...	-1.4
67½	24½	Brand Architekts♦	32½	...	...	-1.4
3628	2666½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2666½	+ 10½	...	9.0
936	707½	Britvic	913	− 6	...	20.7
2641	1569	**Burberry**	2290	− 99	...	19.7
207	131	C&C Grp	131	− 22¾	...	-7.8
7	2⅞	Capital Metals♦	3⅞	− ⅞	...	-1.0
143	92	Carr's Grp‡	141	− 1	...	17.4
575	316	Character Grp♦	316	− 4	...	5.6
1640	1070	Churchill China♦‡	1380	+ 20	...	...
2565	1674	**Coca Cola HBC**	2538	− 10	...	20.2
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3146	+ 2	...	16.6
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3410½	**Diageo**	3548	+ 13	...	27.2
1⅞	⅝	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.7
1000	784	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	818	− 14	...	7.0
103½	68	Finsbury Food♦	93	...	...	11.0
9920	5690	Games Workshop‡	9700	− 45	...	26.7
1227¼	842½	Glanbia	1214½	...	...	29.9
114½	60⅞	Greencore	76¼	− 1⅞	...	15.2
355	231	Headlam‡	271	...	...	11.6
1218	500	Hilton Food	739	+ 3	...	15.4
31½	22	Hornby♦	23	...	...	...
2185	1769½	**Imperial Brands**	1787½	+ 1½	...	5.9
1½	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1⅜	...	...	8.2
9439½	7240⅞	Kerry Gp	8113½	− 398⅞	...	22.4
35⅛	15⅞	McBride	31½	+ ½	...	-5.6
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	250	+ 5	...	10.3
1340	986½	Nichols♦	1020	+ 5	...	...
255	165	Norcros	170	− 6	...	5.3
379⅞	295⅞	Origin Ents♦	320⅞	− 13	...	10.1
14½	⅞	Pittards♦	6⅞	...	...	3.0
512½	300	Portmeirion♦‡	507½	+ 2⅞	...	21.6
⅞	⅛	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	170⅞	PZ Cussons	197⅞	− 2⅞	...	22.7
164	92⅞	REA	95¾	...	...	-7.5
2⅞	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅞	...	...	0.1
350	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	700	+ 10	...	28.1
3¼	1⅞	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2¼	...	...	-1.5
5051	4076½	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3451⅞	**Unilever**‡	4271	+ 6	...	21.9
632	317	Victoria♦	487½	− 6	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng‡	15	...	...	-3.5
1222	739	Avon Rubber	991	+ 23	...	...
367⅞	268⅞	Babcock	319	− 1⅞	...	-1.9
1032	714	**BAE**	985½	− 6⅞	...	18.0
2150	1300	Braime A N/V♦‡	1300	...	...	14.6
1750	1500	Braime Group♦‡	1750	+ 100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1⅞	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.8
380	279	Castings	377	+ 2	...	18.2
5	3¼	Chamberlin♦	3⅞	...	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	26½	− 1½	...	-3.2
560	391	Cohort♦	499	− 3	...	44.3
400	188½	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅞	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
350	192⅞	Dialight	229	+ 6	...	...
1322⅞	873⅞	Electrolux 'B'	1247¼	+ 20⅞	...	9.4
182½	85⅞	Feedback♦	118½	...	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	574	− 4	...	42.5
4490	2400	Goodwin	4430	+ 180	...	24.4
2498	1876½	**Halma**	2498	+ 14	...	36.1
1448	893	Hill & Smith	1362	+ 24	...	32.0
121½	71⅞	Holders Tech♦	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
1674	1071	IMI	1663	+ 12	...	22.7
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9380	− 100	...	47.3
85½	72½	LPA♦	80½	...	...	...
798¾	768⅞	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
510⅞	286½	**Melrose**	484	− 6⅞	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	291	− 3½	...	12.2
433	227½	Mpac♦	240	...	...	6.3
745	260	MS Intl♦	466	− 9	...	66.5
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2745	− 15	...	37.5
2111½	1053⅞	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
17½	12½	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
89½	23⅞	Pressure Tech♦‡	44½	+ ½	...	-3.7
4338	3342	Renishaw	3898	+ 114	...	22.2
31	20½	Renold♦	29¼	+ ¾	...	10.4
158	66⅞	**Rolls-Royce**	156	+ ⅞	...	...
1¾	⅞	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342½	229½	Rotork‡	342½	+ 3½	...	37.2
200	144	SDI Group♦	145	− 2	...	23.9
178	111	Senior‡	178	− 3¼	...	31.0
67	45	Severfield	64	...	...	11.4
15½	8	Six Hundred♦	8⅞	...	...	50.4
1645	1107⅞	SKF B	1437¼	+ 36⅞	...	10.6
300	200	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	**Smiths**	1711	+ 6½	...	27.2
1435	986	Solid State♦	1125	...	...	27.1
470	324	Somero Enter♦	325	...	...	7.2
3841	2690	Spectris‡	3840	+ 29	...	12.6
12350	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**‡	11235	+ 105	...	35.3
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	35½	...	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3¼	+ ¾	...	-9.0
440	345	Thorpe FW♦	362	...	...	25.1
2⅞	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	87	+ ½	...	63.9
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius‡	420½	+ 9¼	...	11.2
1530	713	Videndum‡	720	+ 28	...	13.2
323½	202	Volex♦	274	− 3	...	14.9
2021	1328½	**Weir**‡	1811½	+ 2½	...	30.6
3435	1464	XP Power	2200	− 40	...	11.7
165	97½	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦‡	248	− ½	...	38.9
22	5	Allergy Therap♦‡	6¼	+ 1¼	...	-7.3
156	16½	Angle♦	20¼	...	...	-2.7
603	185	Anpario♦	210	...	...	11.0
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	12010	+ 32	...	...
37¼	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	**Convatec**‡	226¼	+ ⅛	...	52.8
59	25⅞	Creighton	33	− 2	...	6.3
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3650	+ 8	...	54.5
1½	⅞	Deltex Medical♦	1⅞	...	...	-8.5
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	12⅞	...	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	112½	...	...	13.6
51	24⅞	EKF Diagnostics♦	25	...	...	7.0
56⅞	27⅞	Futura Medical♦	42¾	+ 1¾	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2518	+ 60	...	44.8
1820⅞	1296	**GSK**‡	1423¾	...	...	16.4
⅝	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.6
353½	246½	**Haleon**	340	+ 2½	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1826	− 4	...	13.6
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	206	− 12	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	3¼	− ⅛	...	-1.0
7025	1365	Indivior	1519	+ 34	...	86.9
105	42	Inspiration Health♦	44	− 2	...	6.8
41½	18⅞	IXICO♦	20	+ ⅛	...	6.4
501½	350	Mediclinic	500	...	...	31.2

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1¾	...	...	-2.1
93.95	73.32	Novartis	CHF 90.51	– 0.55	...	10.2
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2⅜	...	...	-0.9
11¼	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	9	+ ¾	...	-2.5
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	446½	+ 9½	...	20.0
5	2	Physiomics♦	2¾	...	...	...
5	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	5	+ ⅛	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	6502	– 6	...	...
63½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	– ½	...	-3.9
230	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	125	...	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1282	– 15	...	29.0
250	203	Spire Hcare	239	– ½	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	9¾	+ ¼	...	-0.4
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	54½	...	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	20⅝	...	...	32.7
420	295	Tristel♦	335	+ 2½	...	69.0
26¼	8⅞	ValiRx♦	9¾	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
134¾	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	67⅛	+ 1⅛	...	...
4690½	3372	BASF	4128¾	+ 13	...	8.1
5792⅞	4115½	Bayer DM50	4734½	+ 41⅝	...	55.2
205	46½	Biome Tech♦	120	...	...	-4.0
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1½	...	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp‡	72	+ 1⅛	...	16.0
7482	5908	**Croda**‡	6318	– 14	...	27.5
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	930	+ 10	...	28.3
129	87⅝	Elementis	115⅜	– 2⅛	...	...
27½	11	Hardide♦	12¼	...	...	-2.3
2373	1784	**Johnson Math**	1888½	– 20	...	23.8
1705	1242	**Mondi**	1285½	+ 8½	...	9.8
100	77½	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	317½	+ 1⅝	...	18.0
743¼	444¾	Swire Pacific	581⅝	+ 6⅝	...	...
19	6⅞	Symph Environ♦	6⅞	...	...	...
332¾	88	Synthomer	109	– ½	...	2.2
2691⅜	2055⅜	Takeda Pharm	2594¾	+ 2¼	...	14.5
7	2½	Velocys♦	2½	– ¾	...	-3.1
1931	1504	Victrex	1536	– 19	...	18.2
651	425	Wynnstay Group♦	440	+ 15	...	10.1
410	233	Zotefoams‡	379	+ 9	...	22.7

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅜	51⅝	888 Hldgs	77	– 2	...	5.7
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	694	– 8	...	18.2
680	370	Best of the Best♦	575	...	...	6.4
1011½	501⅜	Carnival	770½	– 16⅛	...	-1.2
135	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28¼	¾	Cineworld	1⅛	...	...	...
339	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	296	+ 2⅛	...	15.1
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1475	– 1	...	33.0
16400	7614	**Flutter Ent**	16400	+ 320	...	...
32¾	22	Gaming Realms♦	30⅞	– ¼	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	110	...	...	6.6
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**	5362	– 62	...	50.2
1¼	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1	...	...	-7.8
214	102	Mitch & Butlers	208	– ⅜	...	...
240½	92½	On The Beach	102	– 2½	...	-5.3
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels‡	1095	+ 20	...	-8.9
112	52⅜	Rank Grp	102	– 1	...	13.7
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	48	– 1¼	...	-9.0
50½	30½	Rotala♦	46½	...	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	19⅛	– 1⅝	...	...
277⅞	184¾	SSP	261½	– 6	...	-5.1
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	3	...	...	4.1
295	65	Tintra♦	92½	+ 1	...	-1.6
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	529⅛	– 7⅛	...	-5.5
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	736½	– 27½	...	-6.8
3306	2285	**Whitbread**	3306	+ 3	...	...
1338	870	Young & Co - A♦	1155	– 30	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	755	– 4	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	80	...	...	22.1
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	44	+ 1	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
315½	176⅛	Ascential	243½	– ¾	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	639	– 2¾	...	31.5
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	435	...	...	17.9
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	4¾	...	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	140	...	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	– 2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	– 30	...	5.0
64½	43	Ebiquity♦	48	...	...	...
1466	984	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+ 2	...	...
2006	896	Future	896	+ 16	...	15.4
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1305	...	...	64.6
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	152½	– 5	...	22.3
727¾	501¾	**Informa**	727¾	+ 5⅛	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV‡	75½	+ ⅛	...	8.1
10¼	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
9¼	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	2	...	...	-0.4
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-5.2
47	26½	Merit Grp♦	44	...	...	...
52½	3	Mirada♦	3	– 3½	...	-0.1
68½	42	Mission Group♦	50½	...	...	8.5
280⅜	168⅞	Moneysupermarket	261⅜	+ 1⅛	...	26.6
1730⅜	1204⅞	News Corp A	1495⅜	– 13⅝	...	24.4
1746½	1230⅝	News Corp B	1503	– 13¼	...	24.5
1326	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	– 25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	830⅛	– 3½	...	39.7
107	69⅛	Photo-Me	107	+ 5	...	18.6
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	3	...	...	5.4
187½	108½	Quarto	166½	...	...	9.2
124	67	Reach‡	76¼	+ ¼	...	84.7
1⅜	¾	REACT Grp♦	1⅜	...	...	19.6
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2501	+ 1	...	32.9
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**‡	553⅜	– 1½	...	31.3
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	92½	...	...	...
315	245	STV Group‡	252	...	...	6.1
310	122½	System1 Group♦	185	...	...	8.8
2991⅝	2270⅜	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2504½	+ 4¾	...	13.7
2769¼	2141⅜	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2312¼	+ 4¾	...	12.6
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
356	222	Wilmington	298	...	...	18.9
1051½	725¾	**WPP**	894⅜	...	...	17.0
117½	77½	Zinc Media♦	105	– 4	...	-6.6

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅞	17¾	AFC Energy♦	18⅜	+ ⅜	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.1
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
91⅛	64¾	Alumina	75⅛	– 1	...	15.6
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.3
1¾	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1⅝	...	...	...
723574¼	4694⅞	Anglo Amer Plat	4694⅞	+ 109¼	...	3.3
4017½	2337½	**Anglo American**	2350	+ 21½	...	4.6
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	107½	...	...	9.3
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**	1416½	+ 6½	...	14.6
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3⅜	...	...	2.4
3⅞	2½	Ariana Res♦	2½	...	...	3.4
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
3⅝	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	329	– 7	...	4.1
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1⅞	Beowulf Mining♦	2	...	...	-8.7
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
2855	2034	BHP Group	2352½	– 2½	...	10.2
5½	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2⅝	...	...	...
21½	13¾	Bougainville	20¾	+ 1	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	481⅜	+ ¾	...	17.4
16⅝	8¾	Cadence Min♦	9¾	– ¼	...	0.9
3⅛	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	– ¼	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1055	+ 5	...	10.3
555¼	195	Capricorn Energy‡	195	– 1¾	...	1.5
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6	...	...	...
125½	74⅜	Centamin	105½	+ ⅞	...	16.3
292½	200	Cent Asia Metals♦‡	200	– 2	...	5.8
15⅜	7⅜	Chaarat Gold♦	10½	+ ⅛	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	16¼	...	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
½	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.0
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	29½	+ ¼	...	...
1¼	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10206¼	92	DRD Gold	92	– ⅛	...	10.8
1¼	½	ECR Minerals♦	½	...	...	-3.2
19½	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	6	+ ¼	...	-0.4
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.7
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	2004	+ 9	...	29.8
35⅝	15⅝	EnQuest	16½	...	...	1.0
8	2½	Eurasia Mining♦	2¾	+ ⅛	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅛	...	...	11.1
193⅛	97½	Ferrexpo	104⅛	...	...	0.8
968	644	**Fresnillo**‡	664¾	+ 5⅛	...	15.7
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	18½	Galantas Gold♦	18½	...	...	-3.1
7¼	2¾	GCM Resources♦	2¾	...	...	-2.3
61½	23¼	Gem Diamonds	23½	+ ¾	...	2.4
31¼	12⅛	Getech♦	15	...	...	-3.5
578	400	**Glencore**‡	434⅞	– ⅜	...	15.9
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
134173	1215¾	Gold Fields	1215¾	+ 5	...	18.7
12½	7½	Goldplat♦	8	– ¼	...	6.0
8⅛	2½	Goldstone Res♦	3¼	...	...	...
13¼	6¾	Greatld Gld♦	7¼	...	...	...
99¾	70	Griffin Mining♦	88⅜	...	...	9.7
310	129⅝	Gulf Keystone	131⅞	– ⅝	...	8.2
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	14½	– ¼	...	1.1
115¼	51½	Hochschild	82¾	+ 3	...	8.0
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	140	...	...	...
356½	187½	Hunting PLC	202½	+ ½	...	-5.1
106½	15¾	IGas Energy♦	16	+ ½	...	-0.8
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	195	...	...	20.2
¾	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.9
318⅜	68¾	ITM Power♦	68¾	– ⅜	...	...
15½	7⅛	Jubilee Metals♦	7½	– ⅛	...	6.3
3	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	2½	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅞	...	...	-3.7
495	380½	Kenmare Res‡	451½	+ 11½	...	5.2
27⅞	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	11¼	Landore Res♦	13	+ ¾	...	-2.9
½	⅜	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅜	...	...	...
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8¾	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8⅛	– ⅛	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	9¼	– ½	...	-1.9
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1¾	...	...	3.0
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+ ¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	– 5⅜	...	60.3
⅛	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-1.9
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	4⅜	Orosur Mining♦	4⅝	...	...	-6.9
22¼	12¾	Pan African Res♦	16½	– ⅜	...	5.3
140¼	17	Pantheon Res♦	17	– ⅛	...	...
79	21	Parkmead Grp♦	21	– ¼	...	-1.8
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	½	...	...	-4.1
120	65⅝	Petra Diamonds	65⅝	– 1¼	...	2.2
3	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.7
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	6⅛	...	...	...
157⅞	46	Petrofac	72⅜	– 3	...	-1.8
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
1¾	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	– ⅛	...	1.6
7½	3¾	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+ ¼	...	-1.6
4½	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅝	...	...	-0.6
350	168	Polymetal Intl	230	– 21⅛	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	644	– 4	...	24.7
19¼	3¾	Prospex Energy♦	9¼	+ ⅛	...	...
14⅝	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	10¼	...	...	-1.8
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	– ⅛	...	-5.8
27¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.7
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
6844½	4678⅜	Rio Tinto Ltd	5856½	– 29⅞	...	6.1
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4948½	+ 12½	...	5.1
41⅛	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	26	– 1	...	9.7
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	¼	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	32	...	...	4.3
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	225¾	+ ⅛	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11¼	– ⅛	...	7.1
2604½	1936⅜	**Shell**‡	2409	+ 16	...	12.7
2⅞	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1¾	...	...	11.0
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.5
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5312	3883¼	Total Eng SE	4895	+ 61½	...	11.2
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.9
57⅛	22½	Tullow Oil	24¾	+ ¼	...	2.4
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.2
418	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
1¼	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	139⅞	+ ⅞	...	-5.7
6⅝	⅜	Woodbois♦	½	...	...	2.1
5¼	1¼	Xtract Resources♦	1⅝	...	...	-2.9
7¼	4	Zephyr Energy♦	4	...	...	-5.2

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4700	– 5	...	79.3
555	460	Andrews Sykes♦	540	+ 2½	...	17.2
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4978	+ 18	...	24.2
19¾	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	– ⅛	...	...
133½	53½	AssetCo♦	53½	– ½	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	50½	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	132	+ 2	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	171	– 1½	...	61.2
3225	2575	**Bunzl**‡	3137	– 29	...	23.8
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	32	– ⅛	...	2.4
45	36	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	132½	...	...	56.3
2235	1641	**Compass**	2235	+ 7	...	54.3
252	97	CPPGroup♦	190½	– 4½	...	...
77	47¼	Croma Security♦	47½	– ¼	...	6.8
5816	4030	**DCC**	4976	– 14	...	16.4
114½	39½	De La Rue	42	+ ⅛	...	5.5
3072	2158	Diploma	3072	– 12	...	54.9
914	597	Discoverie	830	+ 10	...	68.0
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	33	...	...	15.7
325½	175⅛	Essentra‡	192	– 2	...	21.5
3160	2285	**Experian**	2813	+ 11	...	36.0
12380	8680	Ferguson	11865	– 135	...	17.5
270	215	FIH Group♦	253	– 17	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	392	– 4½	...	4.1
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	670	...	...	36.6
23⅝	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4899	3619	**Intertek**	4131	+ 16	...	23.2
251⅜	115⅜	IWG	147½	– 2¼	...	-5.6
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦	120½	+ 1½	...	75.3
181½	106	Journeo♦	169½	...	...	38.0
81⅞	56½	Kier Gp	81⅞	+ 1½	...	7.9
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1230	– 5	...	6.7
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	850	– 6	...	25.7
3850	2300	Lon Security♦	2800	+ 50	...	15.4
390	220	LSL Prop Services‡	277	– 5	...	7.7
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	110	...	...	12.7
315	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	105	...	...	3.2
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	16½	...	...	...
247	182	Mears Group	243	+ 3	...	21.1
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	– 1	...	48.0
94⅞	52	Mitie Gp	92½	– 1	...	46.2
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5⅜	...	...	4.0
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	53½	...	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5¼	...	...	-9.9
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	50	...	...	5.1
286	217	NWF Grp♦	265	– 2½	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	443½	+ 3	...	11.9
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	51½	...	...	...
12	7	Petards♦	7	...	...	12.7
26½	13	PHSC♦	14	+ ½	...	25.4
2⅜	⅝	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅝	...	...	-1.2
98	61	Record	88⅜	+ 2⅜	...	24.2
437½	283½	Redde Northgate	387½	– 3½	...	9.7
757	555	Renew Hldgs♦	745	+ 7	...	18.4
851	489	Renewi	593	– 14	...	12.5
649⅛	445	**Rentokil**	638	– 6	...	45.2
466	262	Restore♦	262	– 8	...	31.1
600	332	Ricardo	572	– 14	...	51.0
600	408	Robert Walters‡	425	+ 5	...	9.7
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15	...	...	2.2
239	95⅜	RPS Group	221	– 1	...	...
1159	812	**RS Group**	859	– 3⅞	...	21.8
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
408⅜	238½	RWS Hldgs♦	248½	– ⅜	...	22.8
440	365	Science Group♦‡	400	...	...	18.4
188¼	145⅞	Serco‡	149	+ ⅛	...	6.1
57½	27½	Smiths News	50¾	– 1	...	4.9
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2990	+ 14	...	13.6
50½	32½	Staffline Gp♦	38	+ ¼	...	29.2
484½	317½	SThree‡	402½	– 3	...	13.0
137½	95	Synectics♦	107½	– 2½	...	...
29¾	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	25½	...	...	-9.2
94	35	Tribal♦	40¼	+ ¼	...	12.5
89	49	Vianet♦	77½	...	...	...
962	615	Vp	650	+ 2½	...	16.0
2⅜	1	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
162⅝	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	119⅝	+ 1¼	...	35.2

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	67⅛	– ½	...	...
503⅛	295½	**B&M European**	485⅝	– 7¾	...	11.3
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	26	– ⅞	...	7.6
112½	40⅜	Card Factory	93¾	– ⅜	...	...
2192	1549	CVS Group♦	2162	+ 12	...	60.5
194	104¾	DFS Furn‡	118⅛	– ¾	...	6.2
1275	670½	Dunelm	1155	+ 1	...	15.5
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	765½	– 10	...	34.0
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2744	– 18	...	24.0
229⅜	124⅝	Halfords	199⅝	– 2⅞	...	6.6
743½	480⅞	Howden Joinery‡	679⅛	– 8¾	...	12.8
941	666	Inchcape‡	793	– 2½	...	26.7
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2¾	...	...	-7.8
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	159¼	– 13⅜	...	19.2
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	240½	– 3⅝	...	6.0
94¼	61½	Lookers‡	82⅝	– 1⅛	...	5.3
169¼	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	161½	– ⅜	...	...
11⅛	5¾	Mothercare♦	6⅛	+ ⅛	...	-3.8
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	102¾	– 1⅛	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6594	– 100	...	12.5
952½	393	**Ocado**	394	– 3⅝	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	17½	...	...	5.5
395	257¾	Pets at Home	384	– 4	...	15.6
227⅜	72⅞	Saga	114¾	+ 2	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	281	– 1¾	...	23.6
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1649	– 16	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	25	...	...	...
1½	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	– 2½	...	2.4
142	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	266⅝	– 1⅝	...	13.5
54	38	Topps Tiles	51	+ 1½	...	9.2

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	78	...	...	...
140	20¼	Aferian plc♦	20¼	– 1⅛	...	3.6
185	126	Alfa Financial	145	...	...	22.6
20¼	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 3⅛	...	-1.2
430	321	Aptitude Software	343	+ 1	...	38.5
265	126½	Bango♦	200	+ 15	...	...
42½	21	BATM Adv Coms	25⅛	– ⅜	...	10.5
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	20⅝	...	...	-8.8
21½	6¼	Blackbird♦	6¼	– ¼	...	-9.9
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2624	1810	Computacenter	2474	+ 20	...	15.3
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	67½	...	...	16.0
12¾	5¾	Corero♦	6½	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1475	– 25	...	67.2
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	3	...	...	20.3
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	16¼	...	...	...
276½	190	D4t4 Solutions♦	195	...	...	23.1
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	19½	...	...	-5.6
¾	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.3
976	599	FDM Group	675	+ 16	...	23.4
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	12¼	+ ⅝	...	33.1
2300	1230	First Derivts♦	1882	+ 80	...	...
647	281½	GB Group♦	301	– 4	...	22.9
180½	136	GreshamTech‡	151½	...	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	43½	– 1	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	109½	– 1	...	64.0
77	38	Intercede♦	53	...	...	18.2
200	112	Iomart♦	158⅜	– 2¾	...	17.4
59⅞	23½	IQE♦	23½	+ 2¾	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	112½	...	...	-1.9
1676⅜	1047¾	LG Electronics	1447⅛	– 160¾	...	3.8
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.8
532	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	532	+ ½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	50½	...	...	16.8
55¾	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18¾	+ ¾	...	...
108½	62½	Netcall♦	99½	...	...	...
52½	35	Northamber♦	37½	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	11¾	– ¾	...	-6.1
112½	76½	Oxford Metrics♦	92	...	...	40.0
9	4½	Parity♦	4½	...	...	-6.5
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	38½	– 1½	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	626	– ½	...	6.5
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	379¾	+ ⅜	...	29.6
150	20½	RM	85⅞	– 1	...	17.1
865	595½	**Sage**	865	+ 9½	...	33.1
8¼	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	5⅞	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	62½	...	...	38.7
63	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	44½	– 1	...	-4.6
1441	1071	Softcat‡	1369	+ 39	...	26.8
286⅛	168	Spirent Comms	184	+ ¾	...	17.1
54	24¾	SRT Marine♦	53½	– ½	...	...
620	407⅜	Tele. Ericsson	423⅝	+ 10¾	...	7.7
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	970	– 6	...	...
20½	12¼	Trakm8♦	16	...	...	...
160	81	Triad Grp	160	...	...	17.5
1380	239	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	445	...	...	24.4
236	144½	Xaar	178	– ½	...	...
8¼	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	135	+ 1	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	116	+ ½	...	10.3
196½	112	**BT Group**	144⅞	+ 4¼	...	14.0
87⅝	53½	Currys plc	55⅛	– ⅞	...	2.6
1236	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1158	– 4	...	20.9
144¼	91¾	Helios Towers	94⅜	– 1½	...	-8.5
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1477	– 11	...	-3.1
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.5
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1¾	...	...	...
2500	1600	Telecom Plus	1742	+ 10	...	44.6
131⅜	82¼	**Vodafone**	83	+ ⅛	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	302	+ 2	...	10.0
535⅛	285	EasyJet	502	– 26	...	-3.1
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	5⅛	+ ⅛	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	116	– ⅝	...	27.6
407	251	Fisher (James)	370	+ ½	...	-6.7
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	157¼	– 3	...	-3.4
332	183⅛	IDS	204⅜	– 4½	...	2.3
439¼	310¾	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
...	...	Jet2♦	1227	– 32	...	-6.5
272½	115¼	Natl Express	118¼	+ ¾	...	-7.0
1050	820	Ocean Wilson‡	856	+ 2	...	4.3
105	104¼	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	22	...	...	...
416	192⅜	Wincanton	217	+ 10½	...	5.9
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	2946	– 167	...	-6.6

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
119¾	67¼	**Centrica**	117⅛	+ ⅜	...	11.8
258	248½	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
812	473⅜	Drax Group‡	622⅜	+ 3¾	...	46.1
582½	457	Jersey Electricity	477	...	...	9.0
1227	858⅜	**National Grid**	1103	– 5	...	25.7
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	7⅞	...	...	5.1
1099	755	Pennon	826½	+ 2½	...	59.8
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	⅜	...	...	-0.3
3148	2213	**Severn Trent**	2813	– 7	...	...
1916½	1428	**SSE**	1868	+ 31	...	7.3
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1041	– 3½	...	95.5

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Money

Wall Street

	May 19 close	wkly +/-
3M	99.03	-1.24
Abbott Labs	108.93	-1.56
AbbVie	145.11	-2.04
Accenture	289.91	+12.72
Activision Blizzard	78.59	+1.22
Adobe Sys	371.25	+35.80
Aflac	66.88	+0.77
Agilent Tech	128.87	+1.38
Air Prods & Chm	278.91	+0.91
Albemarle Corporation	204.15	+8.36
Alexion Pharmas	182.50	
Allergan	193.02	
Allstate	117.78	-0.48
Altria	45.30	-0.37
Amazon	116.25	+5.99
Amer Elec Pwr	86.56	-5.10
Amer Express	152.95	+5.02
Amer Tower	190.73	-9.56
Ameren Corp	84.12	-3.60
American Int	53.85	+1.36
American Wtr W	141.45	-8.32
Ameriprise	303.87	+10.54
AmerisrceBerg	173.39	+2.40
Ametek	147.57	+2.15
Amgen	223.42	-9.53
Amphenol	75.80	+0.70
Anadarko Petrlm	72.77	
Analog Devices	190.53	+9.96
Aon Corp	327.12	-9.05
Apple	175.16	+2.59
Applied Mats	126.95	+10.86
Archer Daniels	73.23	-2.15
Arthur J. Gallagher	216.07	-2.55
AT&T	16.31	-0.72
Auto Data Proc	216.18	+3.44
Autodesk	200.89	+6.44
Autozone	2653.18	-75.88
AvalonBay	176.24	-3.94
Baker Hughes	57.68	
Ball Corp	69.49	-11.15
Bank NY Mellon	40.89	+0.74
Bank of America	28.11	+1.02
Bard (CR)	331.24	
Baxter Intl	42.99	+0.52
BB&T	54.24	-0.48
Becton Dickinsn	251.88	-0.63
Berkshire Hath	330.39	+7.90
Biogen Idec	308.48	-1.12
Blackrock	666.70	+21.60
Boeing	205.49	+4.79
Boston Sci	53.64	+0.30
Bristol-Myrs Sq	65.84	-2.22
Broadcom Ord	682.25	+51.10
Brown-Forman- B	63.70	-0.57
Capital One Fin	97.93	+11.59
Cardinal Health	85.93	+1.16
Caterpillar	214.78	+5.24
Celgene	108.24	
Centene	65.40	-1.77
CenterPoint Egy	28.59	-1.46
Cerner	94.92	+0.07
Chevron	155.23	-1.39
Chipotle Mex Grill	2106.22	+60.59
Church & Dwight	95.03	-1.83
Cigna Corp	255.13	-1.44
Cintas	470.48	-3.88
Cisco Systems	49.13	+2.42
Citigroup	45.71	+0.26
Clorox Co	166.36	-2.77
CME	181.82	-3.13
CMS Energy	58.63	-3.09
Coca-Cola	62.83	-1.28
Cognizant Tech	63.01	+1.35
Colgate-Palm	79.93	-2.05
Comcast	41.18	+0.97
ConocoPhillips	102.60	+3.17
Consd Edison	95.19	-4.33
Constellation Brs	235.29	+7.54
Corning	31.32	+0.33
Costco Whole	496.52	-7.55
Crown Castle Int	113.08	-3.61
CSX	32.31	+0.49
Cummins	216.68	-0.57
CVS Caremark	69.38	+0.80
Danaher	228.33	+0.99
Darden Rest	161.41	+12.86
Deere&Co	363.55	-10.43
Delta Air Lines	35.59	+2.36
Devon Energy	49.20	+1.68
Digital Realty Tr.	90.75	-6.35
Discover Financial	100.74	+5.51
Dollar General	215.08	-3.43
Dollar Tree	160.08	+1.36
Dominion Res	52.12	-3.07
Dover	139.47	+0.71
Dow Chemical	51.95	-0.36
D.R. Horton	110.19	+1.60
Dr Pepper Snap	123.66	-0.02
DTE Energy	108.56	-4.89
Duke Energy	92.51	-4.94
Eaton	174.15	+5.57
eBay	43.48	-1.43
Ecolab	175.27	+1.08
Edison Intl	68.24	-5.44
Edwards Life	87.93	-1.25
Electronic Arts	125.66	+0.19
Eli Lilly	442.38	+7.95
Emerson Elec	82.49	-0.03
Entergy	100.55	-6.59
EOG Res	114.59	+4.17
Equifax	210.12	+6.17
Equinix	723.58	-15.65
Equity Res	61.45	-1.35
Estee Lauder	199.88	+0.73
Evrsurce Engy	73.17	-3.91
Exelon	39.87	-1.88
Expedtrs Intl	114.57	+1.61
Express Scripts	92.33	
Extra Space Stor	148.10	-5.44
Exxon Mobil	106.26	+0.48
Facebook	196.64	+8.00
Fastenal	55.00	+0.26
Fedex	229.08	+6.15
First Solar	203.53	-28.16
FirstEnergy	37.76	-1.70
FIS	56.84	+1.77
Fiserv	119.54	+0.09
Ford Motor	11.65	-0.02
Freeport-Mcm	35.73	+0.74
Garmin	104.00	+0.23
Gen Dynamics	210.65	+0.69
Gen Electric	104.26	+5.46
General Mills	87.63	-2.98
General Mtrs	32.66	+0.26
Genuine Parts	164.77	-5.88
Gilead Sciences	78.85	+0.68
Global Payments	101.96	-0.64
Goldman Sachs	326.15	+6.65
Google Class A	122.76	+5.25
Google Class C CS	123.25	+5.33
Grainger (WW)	681.78	-2.84
Halliburton	30.17	+1.56
Harris	189.13	-8.09
Hartford Financial	71.23	+1.71
HCA Hldngs	282.47	+6.60
Hershey	266.04	-8.54
Hess	133.55	+0.76
Hologic	81.43	-1.34
Home Depot	290.88	+0.41
Honeywell Intl	197.35	+3.73
Hormel Foods	39.34	-0.90
HP Ent	14.33	+0.50
HP Inc	30.54	+1.64
Humana	513.52	-13.83
IBM	127.26	+4.42
ICE Group	108.03	-0.56
IFF	83.68	+0.52
Illinois Tool	228.04	-0.48
Illumina	204.86	-3.74
Ingersoll-Rand	59.76	+1.51
Intel	29.93	+0.98
Intuit	446.03	+18.41
Intuitive Surg	313.61	+8.34
JB Hunt Trprt	168.37	-7.64
Johnsn & Johnsn	158.91	-1.87
Johnson Controls	63.22	+1.19
JP Morgan Chase	139.18	+5.08
Kansas City	293.59	
Kellogg	69.33	-1.48
Kimberly-Clark	145.03	+0.38
Kinder Morgan	16.52	-0.28
KLA-Tencor	423.64	+36.67
Kroger	49.64	+0.46
Lab Corp Amer	216.82	-3.95
Lam Research	588.86	+61.76
Lennar	113.59	+0.36
Level 3 Coms	53.63	+0.43
Lockheed Martin	454.49	+3.70
Lowes Cos	206.27	+3.01
LyondellBasell	90.89	+1.63
Marathon Petrol	110.31	+0.43
Marriott Intl	178.43	+4.33
Marsh & McLenn	180.54	-0.68
MartinMarietta	408.40	+5.83
MasterCard	385.57	+3.65
McCormick	88.92	-1.36
McDonald's	295.55	-0.59
McKesson	397.67	+7.70
Medtronic	89.33	+0.45
Merck & Co	115.49	-1.65
Metlife	51.58	+1.36
Microchip	77.87	+4.06
Micron	68.17	+7.25
Microsoft	318.34	+9.37
Mondelez	77.06	-0.82
Monster Bvrge	59.68	+0.14
Moodys	315.03	+5.32
Morgan Stanley	82.24	-0.15
Motorola Sols	297.45	+4.49
M&T Bank Corp	121.61	+10.18
Nasdaq OMX	55.32	+0.18
Netflix	365.36	+25.47
Newmont Mining	43.66	-2.28
NextEra Energy	74.48	-3.48
Nike	114.76	-5.45
Norfolk Sthn	217.74	+5.83
Northrop Grum	443.31	+4.55
Nucor	138.67	-0.41
Nvidia	312.64	+29.24
Occidental Petr	59.13	+1.04
Omnicom	93.30	+0.46
ONEOK	58.52	-5.20
Oracle	102.84	+4.99
O'Reilly	954.30	-7.80
Paccar	71.75	-0.98
Parker-Hannifin	332.84	+8.85
Paychex	108.11	+1.22
Paypal Hldngs	60.92	-0.77
PepsiCo	191.84	-4.28
Pfizer	36.77	-0.58
PG&E	16.61	-0.84
Philip Morris Intl	93.19	-1.93
Phillips66	94.94	+1.72
Pioneer Ntrl Rscs	208.94	+4.16
PNC Finl	118.48	+6.90
PPG Inds	142.40	+4.30
PPL	27.06	-1.39
Price T Rowe	106.61	+1.30
Priceline.com	1905.64	+20.64
Procter & Gmbl	153.17	-2.79
Progressive Cp	135.06	+1.63
Prologis	123.06	-2.11
Prudential Finl	82.04	+3.10
Public Serv Ent	61.58	-2.23
Public Storage	284.90	-11.09
Qualcomm	105.86	+2.24
Quanta Services	171.71	-2.14
Realty Income	59.97	-2.06
Regeneron Pharm	759.05	+14.70
Republic Serv	145.09	-3.10
Rockwell Auto	281.31	+9.45
Rockwell Collins	141.04	
Roper Inds	457.72	-3.99
Ross Stores	104.76	+0.25
RylCaribbean	79.60	+4.49
Salesforce.com	210.36	+8.55
Schlumberger	45.27	+1.20
Schwab (Charles)	51.67	+2.73
Sempra Energy	145.82	-7.47
Sherwin-Williams	232.77	+5.34
Simon Prop	105.36	-0.99
Southern Co	71.41	-1.94
S&P Global	365.42	+6.08
Spectra Engy	69.44	-15.33
Starbucks	105.51	-0.61
State Street	68.00	+1.46
Sthwest Airlines	29.48	+0.85
Stryker	285.37	-0.10
SunTrust Banks	70.13	
Sysco	73.13	-1.51
Target	152.28	-5.71
TE Connectivity	124.08	+3.62
Texas Insts	170.11	+8.23
TheKraftHeinz	39.07	-1.59
Thermo Fisher	527.38	+2.73
TJX	79.35	+0.36
Tractor Supply Co	224.23	-15.69
Transdigm Group	822.51	+26.92
Travelers	183.72	+1.63
TSYS	133.27	
Ulta Salon	491.05	-22.83
Union Pacific	198.97	-0.02
Untd Rentls	349.02	+17.36
UPS	170.93	+2.43
US Bancorp	30.11	+0.98
Utd Health	478.82	-12.41
Utd Tech	86.01	-18.63
Valero Energy	111.27	+0.75
Ventas	44.77	-1.72
VeriSign	227.41	+4.68
Verisk Analyt CS	222.12	+7.11
Verizon Comm	36.05	-1.54
Vertex Pharma	341.70	-5.71
Visa	233.31	+1.93
Vulcan Mats	197.22	+1.84
Walgreens Boots	31.28	+0.21
Wal-Mart	149.91	-3.16
Walt Disney	91.35	-0.64
Waste Mgt	165.36	-3.88
WEC Engy	89.92	-3.97
Wells Fargo	40.03	+2.54
Welltower	52.22	-2.58
Weyerhaeuser	29.59	-0.24
Williams Cos	29.24	-0.04
Xcel Energy	65.93	-2.96
Xilinx	194.92	
Xylem	104.99	+0.24
Yum Brands	138.28	-0.23
Zimmer	135.00	-1.75
Zoetis	179.55	-4.07

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	98.760	99.210	97.600	98.360	283238	514982
	SEP 23	98.780	98.870	97.580	98.220	1376	923
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.420	96.430	96.405	96.420	140872	544899
	Sep 23	96.180	96.205	96.155	96.180	146350	595063
	Dec 23	96.255	96.290	96.225	96.260	129663	372292
	Mar 24	96.450	96.490	96.410	96.450	122452	348076
	Jun 24	96.680	96.725	96.625	96.675	112231	298732
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7774.5	7801.5	7757.0	7779.5	93083	599031
	Sep 23	7797.0	7810.0	7791.5	7790.0	56	3110
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5914.5		
	Sep 23				5957.0		

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Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33426.63 (-109.28)
Nasdaq Composite	12657.90 (-30.94)
S&P 500	4191.98 (-6.07)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	30808.35 (+234.42)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	19450.57 (-276.68)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	767.10 (+1.82)
Sydney	
AO	7471.50 (+44.50)
Frankfurt	
DAX	16275.38 (+112.02)
Singapore	
Straits	3202.59 (+20.04)
Brussels	
BEL20	3736.78 (+19.48)
Paris	
CAC-40	7491.96 (+45.07)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11571.16 (+133.38)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4395.30 (+27.85)
London	
FTSE 100	7756.87 (+14.57)
FTSE 250	19289.10 (-9.15)
FTSE 350	4271.94 (+6.60)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3693.60 (+25.01)
FTSE All-Shares	4228.25 (+6.80)
FTSE Non Financials	5130.06 n/a
techMARK 100	6986.07 (+39.63)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2454 (+0.0044)
Euro	1.1517 (+0.0000)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.13 (-0.04)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	128.87 Mar (2015 = 100)
RPI	367.20 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	75.57	-0.17
BFOE(Jul)	75.62	-0.29
BFOE(Aug)	75.52	-0.34
WTI(Jul)	71.69	-0.25
WTI(Aug)	71.59	-0.27

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	855.00	858.00	-2.00
Gasoil EEC	693.25	694.25	-3.75
3.5 Fuel Oil	404.50	407.00	-0.50
Naphtha	577.00	591.00	-3.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	687.50-687.25	Sep	683.75-683.25
Jul	683.00-682.75	Oct	686.00-685.50
Aug	682.00-681.50		Volume: 643471

Brent (9.00pm)

Jul	75.64-75.63	Oct	74.97-74.93
Aug	75.55-75.53	Nov	74.65-74.62
Sep	75.29-75.26		Volume: 1845860

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	2402-2400	Sep	2135-2055
Sep	2345-2343	Dec	2116-2105
Dec	2285-2279	Mar	2051-2080
Mar	2213-2204		
May	2180-2164		
Jul	2155-2143		Volume: 86782

RobustaCoffee

May	2693-2650	Jan	2475-2350
Jul	2583-2580	Mar	2450-2100
Sep	2527-2524		
Nov	2484-2440		Volume: 22413

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	677.10-674.20
		May	658.20-654.60
Aug	710.10-709.30	Aug	633.30-619.00
Oct	698.20-697.20	Oct	609.20-597.70
Dec	688.00-685.90		Volume: 65122

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

May	186.00	Jul	180.00	Nov	189.50
Jan	unq	Mar	unq	Volume: 671	

London Metal Exchange (Official)

	Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	8221.0-8222.0	8271.0-8272.0	8355.0-8365.0
Lead ($/tonne)	2094.0-2096.0	2085.0-2086.0	2123.0-2128.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2490.0-2491.0	2498.0-2500.0	2520.0-2525.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2298.0-2300.0	2295.0-2297.0	2448.0-2453.0
Nickel ($/tonne)	21455.0-21465.0	21665.0-21685.0	22875.0-22925.0
Tin ($/tonne) (15mth)	25450.0-25550.0	25175.0-25225.0	24610.0-24660.0

Eurotop 100

	Close	+/-	12mthhigh	12mthlow	Yield	P/E
RWE AG	37.50	-1.40	43.98	34.57		36.74
Swatch Group AG	290.00	-4.00	342.70	215.70	2.04	21.60
AP Moller-Maersk A Dn Kr	11700.00	-130.00	22260.00	11000.00		1.97
AP Moller-Maersk B Dn Kr	11860.00	-145.00	22650.00	11100.00		1.99
ABB Ltd S SF	33.89	+0.76	34.11	23.84	2.54	16.99
Air Liquide Fr €	162.92	+1.62	164.52	114.48	1.83	31.05
Airbus Fr €	129.24	+0.44	131.22	86.52	1.40	24.47
Allianz G €	212.25	+2.20	228.40	156.22		13.85
Anglo American UK p	2371.50	+43.00	4036.00	2299.50		4.65
Anheuser-Busch InBev B €	54.85	+0.09	62.01	45.56	1.37	28.26
Arcelor Mittal	24.83	+0.07	30.99	19.41	1.45	2.16
ASML Holding Nl €	643.40	+2.80	657.10	375.75	0.91	51.31
AstraZeneca UK p	12038.00	+60.00	12828.45	9399.00		2033.53
Atlas Copco A Sw Kr	157.20	+5.55	157.95	25.13		9.89
Atlas Copco B Sw Kr	137.30	+4.55	138.25	22.08		8.64
AXA Fr €	27.77	+0.02	30.34	20.34	6.13	9.66
Banco Santander Es €	3.20	+0.02	3.87	2.32	3.71	6.62
BBVA Es €	6.49	+0.03	7.56	3.97	6.65	9.13
Barclays UK p	159.44	+1.38	198.86	128.12		3.87
BASF G €	47.61	+0.15	53.77	37.90		8.14
Bayer G €	54.59	+0.48	67.49	46.70		55.28
BHP Group UK p	2358.50	+3.50	2862.00	1998.60		10.29
BMW G €	103.38	+0.88	109.84	68.44		5.69
BNP Paribas Fr €	59.85	+0.21	67.02	40.67	6.15	8.90
BP UK p	481.95	+1.40	570.57	359.20		
British Am Tob UK p	2673.50	+17.50	3645.00	2643.00		9.02
BT Group UK p	144.95	+4.25	196.60	22.98		14.07
Centrica UK p	117.50	+0.70	120.70	65.78		11.84
Christian Dior Fr €	833.00	+5.50	872.00	521.50	1.45	31.40
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain	55.63	+1.13	58.54	35.18		13.66
CS Group S SF	0.79	+0.02	6.76	0.66	12.25	
Mercedes-Benz Group AG	71.18	+0.68	75.92	50.19		7.35
Danone Fr €	58.75	+0.30	61.88	46.76	3.42	20.64
Deutsche Bank G €	9.78	+0.02	12.09	7.25		9.94
Deutsche Telekom G €	21.86	+0.07	23.13	17.35		25.95
Diageo UK p	3553.50	+18.50	3960.00	3413.50		27.29
EON G €	11.26	+0.17	12.29	7.28		6.46
EDF Fr €	12.00		12.05	7.27	2.33	9.53
Enel It €	6.01	+0.11	6.26	3.96	6.61	28.87
Engie (FR)	14.50		15.56	10.07	9.66	10.55
ENI It €	13.45	+0.11	14.98	10.45	8.17	5.85
Fresenius Medical Care Ag & Co	73.67	-0.85	83.15	63.51		20.87
GlaxoSmKline UK p	1426.00	+2.20	2753.96	16.64		16.44
Glencre Xstrata	434.90	-0.40	584.50	395.40		15.92
Heineken NV Fr €	101.20	-0.35	106.30	78.28	1.70	18.12
Henkel KGaA G €	69.62	-0.28	70.10	56.55		19.13
Henkel KGaA Pref G €	78.40	+0.18	78.84	57.30		21.54
Hermes Intl SCA Fr €	2002.50	+18.70	2027.00	957.60	0.66	88.78
HSBC UK p	611.50	-1.40	653.80	434.70		13.34
Iberdrola Es €	11.63	+0.13	11.96	9.09	1.61	20.61
Imperial Tobacco UK p	1790.50	+4.50	2185.00	1736.50		5.98
Inditex Es €	31.39	+0.07	32.10	19.92	2.44	34.20
ING Nl €	12.02	-0.05	13.55	8.43	4.63	10.09
Intesa Sanpaolo It €	2.42	+0.03	2.60	1.58	6.39	77.37
Linde G €	342.65	+2.65	345.00	261.20		54.99
Lloyds Bkg Gp UK p	46.68	+0.17	54.33	38.51		6.49
L'Oreal Fr €	421.60	+4.60	442.60	300.45	1.44	53.05
LVMH Fr €	874.30	+1.80	904.60	535.00	1.38	37.80
Munich Re G €	339.50	+9.00	342.90	212.70		16.76
Natl Grid UK p	1104.00	-4.00	1246.50	844.29		25.71
Nestle S SF	114.50	+0.66	123.10	103.60		
Novartis S SF	90.51	-0.55	93.95	73.33	3.51	10.28
Orange	11.32	-0.01	11.94	9.08	6.18	3880.56
Pernod Ricard NV Fr €	212.00	+0.70	218.00	166.60	1.95	33.06
Philips Elect Nl €	18.90	-0.03	24.48	12.13	4.49	29.15
Prudential UK p	1181.50	+17.50	1336.00	782.40		19.13
Reckitt Benckiser UK p	6498.00	+6.00	8020.00	5782.00		
Richemont S SF	152.95	-1.90	161.10	90.28	1.45	38.12
Rio Tinto UK p	4959.00	+23.00	6329.00	4424.50		5.18
Roche Hldgs S SF	316.80	+3.80	409.60	267.00	3.04	22.19
Rolls-Royce UK p	155.95	+0.40	160.00	64.44		106.12
Royal Bank Scot UK p	120.90	-0.45	265.00	100.34		4.76
Shell	2412.00	+19.00	2613.50	1908.60		12.70
Sanofi-Aventis Fr €	101.62	+1.76	105.18	76.45	3.33	21.22
SAP G €	124.48	+0.44	125.10	79.58		28.83
Schneider Electric Fr €	164.60	+2.48	165.38	110.02	1.94	29.99
Siemens G €	159.78	+2.04	161.02	93.67		24.82
Standard Chartered UK p	639.75	-2.85	797.40	515.60		14.22
Swatch Gp BR S SF	290.00	-4.00	342.70	215.70	2.04	21.60
Swiss Re AG S SF	91.72	+2.32	99.68	68.16	6.43	23.16
Telefonica Es €	3.93	-0.01	5.06	3.22	7.57	2.96
Tenaris SA It €	12.34	+0.08	17.83	10.95	3.47	10.28
Tesco UK p	267.38	-1.02	307.23	194.35		13.58
TotalEnergies	39.69	+0.87	42.19	24.51		7.83
UBS AG S SF	17.99	+0.65	20.85	13.87	2.82	8.74
Unilever NV Nl €	49.23	+0.07	50.93	40.78	3.47	25.27
Vinci Fr €	110.90	+0.72	112.40	80.84	3.63	25.40
Vivendi Fr €	9.49	-0.03	11.45	7.59	2.63	
Vodafone Group UK p	83.32	+0.38	132.10	81.02		
Volkswagen G €	149.10	-0.65	217.00	143.45		5.21
Volvo B Sw Kr	208.30	+3.70	219.75	154.28		12.79
Zurich Fin S SF	428.10	+9.60	459.40	384.70	5.73	14.91

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.340; 3 mth 4.660. Sell: 1 mth 4.000; 3 mth 4.400

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.7081	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.49-5.52	5.41-5.43	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	3.82-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.5633-8.5900	8.5798-8.5810	124ds	372ds
Euro	1.1535-1.1500	1.1522-1.1518	10pr	30pr
Montreal	1.6716-1.6857	1.6833-1.6836	1ds	7ds
New York	1.2392-1.2478	1.2456-1.2458	8pr	20pr
Oslo	13.441-13.559	13.530-13.534	130ds	370ds
Stockholm	13.062-13.126	13.100-13.104	231ds	609ds
Tokyo	171.25-172.50	171.73-171.75	69ds	214ds
Zurich	1.1192-1.1230	1.1206-1.1207	32ds	95ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

FTSE volumes

(000s)

3i	1,572
abrdn	3,347
Admiral	315
Airtel Africa PLC	1,591
Ang Am	3,500
Antofagasta	480
Ashtead	712
AB Foods	552
AstraZeneca	1,152
Auto Trader	1,603
Aviva	7,228
B&M European	3,201
BAE Sys	2,883
Barclays	37,914
Barratt Devs	2,749
BHP Group	1,412
Berkeley	692
BP	28,077
Brit Amer Tob	2,940
Br Land	2,630
BT Group	17,850
Bunzl	383
Burberry Grp	1,849
Centrica	11,100
Coca Cola HBC	512
Compass	5,666
Convatec	3,293
CRH	899
Croda	241
DCC	283
Diageo	2,299
Endeavour Mining PLC	288
Entain	1,235
Experian	1,210
F&C Investment Tr	302
Flutter Ent	341
Frasers Group	378
Fresnillo	837
Glencore	22,006
GlaxoSmKline	5,023
Haleon	9,917
Halma	899
Hargreaves L	648
Hiscox	431
HSBC	14,812
Imperial Brands	1,620
Informa	2,161
Intercont Htls	357
Intl Cons Air	17,794
Intertek	379
JD Sports	23,644
Johnson Math	667
Kingfisher	6,612
Land Sec	1,166
Legal & Gen	9,646
Lloyds Bkg Gp	129,304
Lond Stk Ex Gp	4,519
M&G	3,866
Melrose	9,132
Mondi	801
Natl Grid	7,680
NatWest Gr	9,078
Next	335
Ocado Gp	1,669
Pearson	1,173
Pershing Sq	128
Persimmon	1,187
Phoenix Gp	900
Prudential	3,705
Reckitt Benck	932
Relx	2,369
Rentokil Itl	7,607
Rightmove	1,670
Rio Tinto	1,915
Rolls-Royce	19,226
RS Group	640
Sage Gp	1,922
Sainsbury J	2,392
Schroders	1,159
Scot Mtge	3,460
Segro	2,260
Severn Trent	397
Shell PLC	6,876
Smith & Neph	1,926
Smith (DS)	1,611
Smiths	954
Smurfit Kappa	181
Spirax-Sarco	89
SSE	2,257
St James Place	722
Stand Chart	4,432
Taylor Wimpey	9,730
Tesco	21,409
Unilever	2,854
Unite Group	388
Utd Utilities	1,407
Vodafone Gp	69,866
Weir	237
Whitbread	869
WPP	1,470

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.71	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Gold/precious metals

Bullion: Open $1958.40
Close $1975.92-1976.14 **High** $1982.57
Low $1954.29
AM $1976.95 **PM** $1960.30
Krugerrand $1172.00-1244.00 (£940.76-998.56)
Platinum $1092.00 (£876.55)
Silver $23.90 (£19.19)
Palladium $1721.11 (£1381.53)
* Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Thursday.

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5016-1.5017
Canada	1.3513-1.3514
Denmark	6.8873-6.8878
Euro	0.9247-0.9248
Hong Kong	7.8162-7.8165
Japan	137.86-137.86
Malaysia	4.5360-4.5410
Norway	10.860-10.865
Singapore	1.3448-1.3450
Sweden	10.512-10.521
Switzerland	0.8992-0.8996

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	289.99-290.00
Australia dollar	1.8706-1.8708
Bahrain dinar	0.4662-0.4731
Brazil real	6.2069-6.2107
Euro	1.1519-1.1521
Hong Kong dollar	9.7369-9.7379
India rupee	103.20-103.21
Indonesia rupiah	18599-18610
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3816-0.3839
Malaysia ringgit	5.6526-5.6588
New Zealand dollar	1.9820-1.9825
Singapore dollar	1.6754-1.6757
S Africa rand	24.206-24.217
U A E dirham	4.5648-4.5673

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.868	-0.01
Canada $	1.680	+0.01
Denmark Kr	8.588	+0.01
Euro €	1.153	
Hong Kong $	9.722	+0.01
Hungary	433.329	-0.70
Indonesia	18562.971	+119.13
Israel Shk	4.540	+0.02
Japan Yen	172.266	+0.28
New Zealand $	1.981	-0.02
Norway Kr	13.525	-0.02
Poland	5.236	-0.01
Russia	99.655	+0.24
S Africa Rd	24.220	+0.14
Sweden Kr	13.122	-0.01
Switzerland Fr	1.122	
Turkey Lira	24.641	+0.09
USA $	1.244	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

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Unit-linked insurance investments Full funds service at thetimes.co.uk/funds

ABBEY LIFE
01202 292373
80 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Ser 4	3837.90	4039.90	+82.10	...
Custodian S4	565.90	595.70	-2.40	...
Equity Ser 4	795.10	837.00	+1.70	...
Ethical S4	433.40	456.20	+3.00	...
European S4	991.90	1044.10	+6.00	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	783.90	825.20	-12.60	...
High Inc Ser 4	2669.60	2810.10	+11.70	...
International S4	816.60	859.60	+11.60	...
Japan Ser 4	551.70	580.70	+11.10	...
Man Ser 4	2307.80	2429.20	+4.60	...
Money Ser 4	533.30	561.30	+0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	984.20	1036.00	+0.50	...
Protected Gth S4	213.80	225.00	...	...

Fomerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fund	2975.20	3148.40	+35.70	...
European Fund	5191.10	5493.20	+31.60	...
Fixed Intl	871.90	922.60	-13.90	...
Income Fund	3287.30	3478.60	+9.20	...
International	2206.80	2335.30	+31.50	...
Managed Series A	2167.60	2293.70	+4.30	...
Managed Units	3955.60	4163.80	+7.90	...
Money Series A	484.50	512.70	+0.30	...
Money Units	684.10	720.20	+0.40	...
Property Series A	1358.20	1437.30	+0.70	...
Property Units	2510.40	2642.60	+1.50	...
Smaller Cos	2752.00	2912.20	+6.10	...

Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	359.40	378.40	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	256.70	270.20	+4.20	...
Fixed Interest	581.50	612.10	-9.30	...
Managed	2127.30	2239.30	+3.40	...
Mngd Growth	811.70	854.40	+10.70	...
Property	801.80	844.00	+0.40	...
TSB Intl	1562.00	1644.30	+22.20	...

AEGON SCOTTISH EQUITABLE
08456 100010
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	2121.84	2233.52	+34.75	...
Cash	279.80	294.53	+0.26	...
Distribution	94.85	99.85	-1.30	...
Ethical	665.94	700.99	+6.22	...
European	1377.93	1450.45	+9.43	...
Fixed Interest	464.85	489.32	-4.50	...
Global	377.92	397.81	+4.88	...
International	1139.17	1199.13	+14.14	...
Japan	451.29	475.04	+13.69	...
Mixed	954.74	1004.99	+5.22	...
Pacific	1545.38	1626.72	+22.06	...
Technology	5134.46	5404.69	+147.66	...
UK Equity	928.04	976.89	+6.93	...

ALBA LIFE
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR
0141 248 2000
Formerly Britannia
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European	1660.60	1748.00	+14.50	...
Far East	621.10	653.80	+8.90	...
Fixed Interest	771.80	812.40	-10.70	...
International	1426.70	1501.80	+20.80	...
Japan	727.90	766.20	+14.70	...
Managed Fund	1501.50	1580.50	+1.80	...
Money Market	405.20	426.50	+0.30	...
North America	1427.50	1502.60	+30.80	...
Property	982.00	1033.70	+0.70	...
UK Equity	2692.50	2834.20	+4.90	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1897.90	1997.70	+6.20	...
European	2113.00	2224.20	+21.80	...
Far Eastern	500.90	527.30	+8.80	...
Fixed Interest	783.30	824.50	-14.40	...
International	1231.90	1296.80	+21.60	...
Japan	354.30	372.90	+8.80	...
Managed	1065.50	1121.60	+6.50	...
Money Market	480.50	505.80	+0.30	...
North America	2108.70	2219.70	+53.20	...
Property	897.40	944.60	+0.70	...

AXA SUN LIFE
PO Box 1810, Bristol BS99 5SN
AXA Assurance - 02476 235500
Sun Life - 0117 989 3000
AXA Equity & Law - 02476 235400
Life Assnce - AXA Equity & Law Series 6. 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balced Ser 6	2615.90	2753.60	+13.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	93.50	98.40	+0.10	...
Europe Ser 6	2145.00	2257.90	+12.80	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	5043.70	5309.20	+18.90	...
Property Ser 6	1577.00	1660.00	+0.50	...
UK Equities Ser 6	4154.10	4372.80	+30.30	...

Life Funds - Sun Life (inc Birmingham Midshires)& AXA Assurance 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Acc	474.90	499.90	-0.10	...
Deffrd Dist	702.10	739.10	+0.50	...
Distribution Fund	341.20	359.20	-7.00	...
Equity Acc	6075.20	6394.90	+44.50	...
European	1013.00	1066.30	+6.00	...
Far Eastern Acc	2228.30	2345.60	+16.10	...
Fixed Int Acc	921.00	969.40	-3.00	...
Global Eqty Acc	2580.60	2716.50	+30.40	...
Japan Acc	374.00	393.70	+3.70	...
Managed Acc	3206.40	3375.10	+16.10	...
North Amer Acc	3077.80	3239.70	+36.00	...
Pacific Acc	1659.20	1746.50	+10.20	...
Property Acc	1203.70	1267.00	+0.40	...

BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
0845 603 5000
Level 12, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
500 Accum	1488.50	1566.85	-1.58	...
America Acc	2781.91	2928.33	+41.09	...
Comb Inc Acc	2712.67	2855.44	+10.43	...
Equity Acc	3979.32	4188.76	-4.36	...
Far East Gwth	1257.08	1323.24	+12.19	...
Gilt 2 Init	207.61	218.54	-0.94	...
Gilt Edged Acc	845.07	889.55	-3.27	...
Inter 2 Init	485.16	510.70	+3.26	...
International Acc	1973.49	2077.36	+14.59	...
Japan Acc	455.03	478.98	+5.30	...
Managed 2 Init	552.71	581.80	+1.75	...
Managed Acc	2240.67	2358.60	+8.61	...
Managed Alpha	1701.66	1791.22	-1.80	...
Money Acc	435.75	458.69	+0.42	...
Prop 2 Init	215.66	227.01	+0.04	...
Property Acc	872.39	918.31	+0.75	...
UK Growth Acc	1256.56	1322.69	-1.37	...
Univ Tech Acc	861.44	906.78	+6.37	...

& AXA Assurance 1% AM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity 2 Init	975.61	1026.95	-1.72	...

CANADA LIFE
01707 651122
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	320.20	337.00	-0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	1684.00	1772.00	-44.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	1662.00	1749.00	-16.00	...
Deposit Fund	524.50	552.10	+0.10	...
Equity	1174.00	1235.00	-17.00	...
Equity Fund	3149.00	3314.00	+17.00	...
European	1973.00	2076.00	+16.00	...
Fixed Interest	941.10	990.60	-14.60	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	631.20	664.40	+5.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	1151.00	1211.00	-19.00	...
International	2637.00	2775.00	+41.00	...
Intl Mgd	3550.00	3736.00	+54.00	...
Investment Fd	1466.00	1539.00	-25.00	...
Japanese	394.20	414.90	+13.50	...
Managed	1291.00	1358.00	-9.00	...
Managed Fund	2727.00	2870.00	+20.00	...
ML Intl Fxd Int	697.00	733.60	-0.30	...
Money	538.50	566.80	+0.20	...
Multiple Inv	3462.00	3644.00	+26.00	...
North Amer	2321.00	2443.00	+41.00	...
Property	1020.00	1073.00	+2.00	...
Property Fund	1879.00	1977.00	...	...
UK Equity	4826.00	5080.00	+33.00	...
UK Property	1330.00	1399.00	...	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	298.38	314.08	+0.15	...
Dist Acc S2	203.48	203.48	-1.84	...
Fidelity Bal	1175.35	1237.21	+4.53	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	481.94	507.31	-5.97	...
Non Eqty	391.11	411.70	-1.14	...
Nth American	3016.13	3174.87	+53.88	...
Property	659.14	693.83	+0.22	...
UK Gwth	1343.81	1414.53	+1.69	...
With Prof Bd S2	122.50	122.50	...	...
With Profits Flex	128.70	128.70	...	...
With Profits Reg	404.70	426.00	+0.10	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	340.23	358.13	+0.23	...
European	2142.39	2255.15	+14.05	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	539.99	568.41	-8.41	...
Halifax	142.88	150.40	...	...
Nth American	4590.33	4831.93	+89.00	...
PP Bal Pens	1178.38	1240.40	+4.57	...
PP Caut Pens	381.58	401.67	-0.14	...
PP UK Gth Pens	1172.00	1233.69	-0.23	...
PP UK Prop Pens	714.86	752.48	+0.39	...
With Profits Reg	737.30	776.20	+0.50	...
With Profits Spec	730.40	768.90	+0.60	...

COUNTRYWIDE ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR
CA Funds 0800 262536

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Life	222.60	234.30	+0.10	...
Deposit Pen	312.40	328.80	+0.30	...
Intl Life	996.90	1049.30	+18.00	...
Intl Pen	1372.50	1444.70	+30.10	...
Mgd Life	796.90	838.80	+3.40	...
Mgd Pen	1186.00	1248.40	+5.00	...
UK Eqty Life	866.60	912.20	+6.40	...
UK Eqty Pen	1127.50	1186.80	+10.20	...

CWA Series Funds 0870 600 0014

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd	1829.10	1925.40	-1.30	...
Glob Cash	366.40	385.70	+0.30	...
Glob Eqty	3440.10	3621.20	+44.30	...
Glob Fxd Int	1287.80	1355.60	+2.10	...
Glob Mgd	2387.00	2512.60	+9.80	...
Glob Prop	780.10	821.20	...	...
Managed Fd	2982.90	3139.90	+12.30	...
Property Fd	641.30	675.10	...	...

FRIENDS PROVIDENT
01722 413366
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	326.30	343.50	+0.50	...
European	1588.90	1672.50	+0.10	...
Fixed Inter Life	658.90	693.60	-2.10	...
Index Linked	553.40	582.60	-15.70	...
Managed	1136.00	1195.80	+0.60	...
North American	1218.10	1282.20	+14.20	...
Overseas Equity	1787.40	1881.50	+22.10	...
Pacific Basin	569.70	599.70	+3.90	...
Property	670.90	706.20	+0.30	...
Stewardship	1785.40	1879.30	+23.00	...
UK Equity	1832.80	1929.30	+8.20	...

Formerly London & Manchester Assurance

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Ex Cap ‡	...	...	+1.30	...
Equity Life ‡	...	...	+8.30	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-2.30	...
Fxd Int Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.50	...
Gtd Dep Ex Cap ‡	...	...	...	...
Guaranteed Deposit ‡	...	...	+0.60	...
Inter Life ‡	...	...	+21.30	...
Intl Ex Cap ‡	...	...	+3.60	...
Prop Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Prop Life ‡	...	...	+0.30	...

FP Life Assurance ex NM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3266.70	3438.60	+37.90	...
Deposit	545.90	574.60	+0.80	...
European	3866.00	4069.50	...	...
Fixed Interest	1374.00	1446.30	-4.30	...
Income Acc	4052.40	4265.70	-39.00	...
Income Dist	683.30	719.30	-6.60	...
International	1770.50	1863.70	+21.80	...
Managed	2538.20	2671.80	+1.30	...
Mixed	1776.00	1869.50	-17.90	...
Property	1888.20	1987.50	+1.00	...
Singapore & Mal	1247.90	1313.50	+7.10	...
Tokyo Fund	1151.10	1211.70	+10.80	...
UK Equity	2534.30	2667.70	+11.30	...

Friends Prov (London & Manchester) Ass Ltd Fd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital Gth Acc ‡	...	...	+10.90	...
Flexible Acc ‡	...	...	+0.70	...
Flexible Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Inv Trust Acc ‡	...	...	+0.70	...
Inv Trust Cap ‡	...	...	-0.50	...
Moneymaker Acc ‡	...	...	+3.00	...

GUARDIAN
01253 733151
Ballam Rd, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4JZ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	441.40	464.60	+0.50	...
Equity Life	4754.80	5005.00	+13.10	...
European	702.20	739.20	+12.40	...
Fixed Interest	1629.80	1715.50	-18.20	...
Index Linked	615.70	648.10	-6.90	...
Inter Life	2806.30	2954.00	+49.80	...
Managed Life	2748.60	2893.30	+12.60	...
North American	1442.00	1517.90	+25.60	...
Pacific	870.60	916.40	+15.50	...
Prop Life	1044.30	1099.20	+4.80	...

HALIFAX LIFE LTD
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	99.76	105.01	+0.37	...
Deposit	36.08	37.98	...	...
Foundation	103.42	108.87	+0.33	...
Opportunity	120.71	127.06	+0.90	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced S2	102.54	107.94	+0.45	...
Deposit S2	41.68	43.87	...	...
Foundation S2	103.65	109.11	+0.35	...
Opportunity S2	121.15	127.53	+1.13	...

INVESCO FUNDS MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS 020 7710 4567
Formerly GT Global Fund Mgmt Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Plan Far East	554.30	583.40	...	...
Plan Wwide	924.50	973.20	-0.10	...

LEGAL & GENERAL INVESTMENT MGMT
0203 1243000
One Coleman Street, EC2R 5AA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
B Soc Lnkd Init	136.20	143.40	...	...
Brit Opps Int	221.20	232.80	-3.70	...
British Opp	823.20	866.50	+2.90	...
Building Soc Linked	283.40	298.30	...	...
Cash	443.20	466.50	+0.30	...
Cash Initial	119.10	125.40	-0.30	...
Equity	4843.50	5098.40	+11.40	...
Equity Initial	1073.10	1129.60	-14.50	...
Fixed Initial	463.80	488.20	+3.70	...
Fixed Interest	1333.50	1403.60	-20.60	...
Index Linked Gilt	614.20	646.50	-21.90	...
Index Lkd	270.30	284.50	+0.60	...
International	2416.80	2544.00	+29.30	...
Intl Initial	537.00	565.30	-6.40	...
Life Property	1404.80	1478.80	+0.80	...
Managed	3101.10	3264.30	+7.50	...
Managed Initial	770.70	811.30	-3.70	...
Property Initial	349.80	368.20	-0.60	...

LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP
Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RZ
01452 371371 For further prices 0800 7315139
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	719.00	756.80	-2.20	...
Balanced Mgd 3	1646.00	1732.60	-0.70	...
Cautious Mgd 2	490.90	516.70	-1.90	...
European	858.10	903.20	+10.50	...
Far Eastern	1717.50	1807.80	+7.20	...
Framlington	215.60	227.00	+0.40	...
Green	645.90	679.80	+8.80	...
International	629.50	662.60	+6.50	...
Japan	305.90	321.90	+3.50	...
North Amer	4093.40	4308.80	+64.00	...
Perpetual	468.00	492.60	-1.30	...
Schroders	1479.10	1556.90	+14.40	...
Select Mgd	147.80	155.60	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Inc	1540.30	1621.30	-39.50	...
UK Equity Gwth	2283.80	2404.00	-9.50	...
UK Fxd Int	498.20	524.40	-10.10	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	1003.20	1055.90	-3.70	...
Balanced Mgd 3	3745.20	3942.30	+0.70	...
Cautious Mgd 2	815.90	858.80	-3.90	...
European	1348.10	1419.00	+19.80	...
Far Eastern	2715.30	2858.20	+12.70	...
Framlington	258.10	271.70	+0.80	...
Green	1044.90	1099.80	+16.90	...
International	929.40	978.30	+11.40	...
Japan	383.70	403.80	+4.60	...
North Amer	11837.80	12460.80	+234.60	...
Perpetual	566.20	595.90	-1.90	...
Schroders	2846.70	2996.50	+33.90	...
Select Mgd	158.90	167.30	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Gwth	4075.80	4290.30	-21.30	...
UK Eqty Inc	2512.60	2644.80	-64.20	...
UK Fxd Int	1065.80	1121.80	-21.40	...

LLOYDS TSB LIFE LTD
01634 834000
Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1674.60	1762.80	+11.70	...
Managed	3668.40	3668.40	+11.70	...
Income	3403.60	3582.70	-11.70	...
Managed Inv	1902.60	2002.70	+5.90	...

Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3298.00	3471.60	+47.30	...
Balanced	2556.70	2691.30	-26.60	...
Cash	416.60	438.60	+0.20	...
European Gth	906.10	953.80	+1.90	...
Fixed Interest	728.40	766.70	-4.70	...
German Growth	1710.40	1800.50	+35.20	...
Income	3142.40	3307.70	-10.90	...
Japan Growth	332.10	349.60	+6.40	...
Managed Inv	2070.70	2179.70	+6.50	...
Pacific Basin	1381.40	1454.20	+20.00	...
Property	1552.80	1634.60	+0.50	...
Smllr Cos Recov	4784.40	5036.20	+25.40	...
Worldwide Gth	2040.10	2147.50	+24.80	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Pens	2007.60	2113.30	+33.30	...
Cash Pen	314.90	331.40	+0.20	...
European Pen	1692.40	1781.50	+4.40	...
Far East Pen	585.70	616.50	+9.20	...
Fixed Int Pen	513.00	540.00	-4.10	...
FTSE 100	403.30	424.60	+0.10	...
Managed Pen	1014.90	1068.30	+4.70	...
Property Pen	946.50	996.30	+0.50	...
UK Equity Pen	797.20	839.10	-8.20	...

LONDON LIFE
0117 984 7777
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	514.90	514.90	+0.30	...
Deposit A	295.20	310.80	+0.20	...
Deposit P	675.30	675.30	+2.60	...
Equity	4243.50	4243.50	+14.60	...
Equity A	943.30	993.00	+3.20	...
Equity P	3736.00	3736.00	+15.80	...
Fixed Int A	469.50	494.30	-6.90	...
Fixed Int P	1682.60	1682.60	-33.10	...
Fixed Interest	1104.40	1104.40	-16.20	...
Index Stock A	510.30	537.20	-18.40	...
Index Stock P	849.50	849.50	-44.70	...
Indexed Stock	680.20	680.20	-24.50	...
International	1484.40	1484.40	+22.80	...
International A	888.60	935.40	+13.60	...
International P	1963.30	1963.30	+35.50	...
Mixed	2399.70	2399.70	+11.70	...
Mixed A	755.70	795.50	+3.70	...
Mixed P	2397.50	2397.50	+14.00	...
Property	787.60	787.60	+0.50	...
Property A	337.80	355.60	+0.20	...
Property P	620.10	620.10	+2.40	...

MERCHANT INVESTORS ASSURANCE CO LTD
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Far East	741.00	780.00	+7.40	...
Gilt Edged	1272.30	1339.30	-29.80	...
Interest Fund	565.00	594.70	+0.20	...
Intl Equity	2089.40	2199.40	+33.50	...
Managed Fd	1238.80	1304.00	+1.00	...
North American	787.20	828.60	+16.50	...
Property	1413.10	1487.50	+0.60	...
UK Equity	1118.00	1176.80	+6.90	...

MGM ASSURANCE
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY 01903 836000

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	114.48	120.50	-0.08	...
Deposit Acc	375.64	395.41	+0.23	...
Fixed Interest	387.54	407.93	-3.32	...
Fixed Interest Acc	1124.72	1183.92	-6.84	...
Managed	483.36	508.80	-9.19	...
Managed Acc	1561.53	1643.72	+11.06	...
Property	250.17	263.34	-0.42	...
Property Acc	821.25	864.47	+0.32	...

NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Growth Mgd Pens	571.84	601.93	+1.61	...

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP
01603 622200

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	614.66	647.01	+0.38	...
Eqity Fund	16428.90	17293.58	+25.37	...
Fixed Int Fd	1595.47	1679.44	-6.89	...
Higher Inc Plus	220.27	231.86	-0.81	...
Intl Fund	1296.82	1365.07	+9.84	...
Managed Fund	6407.04	6744.26	+17.57	...
Property Fd	2420.02	2547.39	+1.19	...

Formerly Commercial Union

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	311.10	327.50	+0.20	...
Fxd Int	504.50	531.10	-2.20	...
Index-Lnkd	514.60	541.70	-9.80	...
Int Equity	1425.00	1500.00	+10.70	...
Managed	1460.30	1537.10	+3.90	...
Property	821.30	864.50	+0.30	...
UK Equity	1987.90	2092.60	+2.80	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	...	...	+1.30	...
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	...	...	+33.70	...

Formerly General Accident

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1479.10	1556.90	+23.30	...
Cash Deposit	263.60	277.50	+0.10	...
Conv Life	431.60	454.20	...	...
European	1172.80	1234.60	+9.90	...
Fixed Int	423.70	446.00	-1.90	...
Index-Linked	499.60	525.90	-9.50	...
International	887.40	934.10	+12.50	...
Japan	415.10	436.90	+5.40	...
Japan Smllr Cos	424.60	446.90	+5.50	...
Managed	738.00	776.80	+2.00	...
Pacific Fund	981.10	1032.70	-0.70	...
Property	596.30	627.70	+0.20	...
UK Equity	1138.10	1198.00	+1.60	...
Unitised Profit	412.90	434.70	+0.20	...

Formerly Provident Mutual

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Initial	87.00	91.60	...	...
Deposit Ord	324.80	341.90	+0.20	...
Equity Init	784.60	825.90	+0.70	...
Equity Ord	2971.40	3127.80	+4.30	...
Fixed Int Init	171.80	180.90	-0.90	...
Fixed Int Ord	639.70	673.40	-2.80	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	184.30	194.00	-3.60	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	628.60	661.70	-12.00	...
Managed Initial	464.40	488.90	+0.90	...
Managed Ord	1740.30	1831.90	+4.60	...
Oseas Equity Init	468.80	493.50	+3.20	...
Oseas Equity Ord	1859.10	1957.00	+13.90	...
Property Init	257.10	270.70	-0.10	...
Property Ord	956.40	1006.70	+0.40	...

NPI
020 7477 5567
55 Moorgate, London EC2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Americas	2561.50	2696.40	+51.50	...
Deposit	363.90	383.10	+0.20	...
Far East	1682.90	1771.50	+31.60	...
Fixed Interest	903.20	950.80	-13.30	...
Indexed Gilt	653.20	687.60	-23.20	...
Managed	1701.10	1790.70	+7.20	...
Overseas Equity	2393.30	2519.30	+34.30	...
UK Equity	2563.40	2698.40	+8.50	...

PEARL
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY 01733 470 470

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Inv Equity	5973.20	6287.60	+16.90	...
Inv Managed	3881.50	4085.80	+16.10	...
Inv Prop Ac Grs	872.90	918.90	+0.60	...
Inv Prop Dist	276.20	290.80	+0.20	...
Ret Managed	4596.80	4838.80	+20.80	...

PHOENIX LIFE LTD
Edward Pavilion, Liverpool L3 4SL 0151 239 3000
For further fund prices please ring: 0800 731 2031
For further fund prices please ring 0800 731 2031
Broker Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Moneyhill Grth	510.43	537.29	+2.58	...

Lifestyle Bond Funds (Post 29/1/01)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cautious Mgd	252.80	252.80	-0.80	...
Deposit	153.70	153.70	+0.10	...
Equity	274.60	274.60	+0.50	...
Equity Inc	305.20	305.20	+0.80	...
European	365.00	365.00	+0.90	...
Eurotech	90.10	90.10	-0.20	...
Far East	415.60	415.60	+4.90	...
Fixed Int	195.30	195.30	-2.90	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	298.40	298.40	+1.40	...
Income Dist I	113.00	113.00	-0.50	...
Income Dist II	111.20	111.20	-0.40	...
International	316.00	316.00	+4.10	...
Japan Grth	212.20	212.20	+4.20	...
Managed	281.60	281.60	+0.20	...
North America	479.40	479.40	+10.90	...
Pacific Grth	635.30	635.30	+4.10	...
Property	346.90	346.90	+0.30	...
UK Leader	286.80	286.80	+1.30	...
UK Smlr Cos	298.00	298.00	+0.50	...
With Profits	157.47	157.47	+0.10	...

Other Life & Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Pens Unit W Prof	248.54	261.62	+0.21	...
With Profits Bd	192.64	192.64	+0.13	...

Pensions Solution Funds (Post 6/4/2001)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Grth	283.30	283.30	-1.10	...
Cash Deposit	164.00	164.00	+0.10	...
Equity	283.10	283.10	+1.00	...
Equity Inc	314.90	314.90	+0.20	...
European	434.90	434.90	+1.20	...
Eurotech	173.80	173.80	+4.40	...
Far East	499.50	499.50	+7.10	...
Fixed Int	217.70	217.70	-4.40	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	336.50	336.50	+1.80	...
Index Linked	262.70	262.70	-11.30	...
International	381.90	381.90	+5.90	...
Managed Grth	309.90	309.90	+0.30	...
Pens Protector	207.00	207.00	-9.00	...
Property	446.60	446.60	+0.40	...
UK Leader	312.70	312.70	+1.60	...
Unitised W Prof	210.09	210.09	+0.20	...

PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS
0345 601601
55 King's Road, Reading, RG1 3AH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Fund ‡	...	...	+6.90	...
N American Fd ‡	...	...	+15.40	...
Strategic Fund	644.30	678.20	-11.00	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund ‡	...	...	+0.40	...
Equity Fund ‡	...	...	+25.20	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	+2.90	...
Intl Fund ‡	...	...	+15.50	...
Managed Fund ‡	...	...	+14.30	...
Property Fund ‡	...	...	+2.50	...

PRUDENTIAL LIFE FUNDS
01786 448844
PO Box 14962, Craigforth, Stirling, FK9 4ZD
Others

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
BonusBond	261.80	275.60	+1.40	...
Cap Gteed Bd	390.40	410.90	+1.20	...
Prud Inher Bd (Cap) ‡	...	...	-0.60	...
Prud Inher Bd (Inc) ‡	...	...	+0.60	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	373.80	393.50	+0.20	...
Equity	2563.50	2698.40	+9.90	...
Fixed Interest	875.20	921.20	+2.20	...
Index-Linked	565.40	595.10	...	...
International	1976.70	2080.80	+11.10	...
Managed	2020.00	2126.40	+8.80	...
Property	1077.40	1134.10	+2.70	...

The M & G Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Bond Acc	1351.10	1418.80	-21.40	...
Deposit Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	5244.00	5506.30	+19.30	...
Euro Smlr Cos	209.30	219.90	-21.90	...
European Bd Acc	2188.50	2298.00	+30.40	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	4469.00	4692.50	-1.60	...
Gbl Basics Bd Acc	1161.30	1219.40	+16.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+2.30	...
High Yield Bond	460.20	483.30	-3.30	...
Index-Lnkd Gt Bd	375.60	394.40	-6.10	...
International Bd	5826.20	6117.60	+77.20	...
Japan Bond Acc	494.40	519.20	+8.90	...
Japan Sm Cos Acc	235.80	247.70	-3.80	...
Managed Bond Acc	3663.20	3846.40	+15.70	...
Prop Bond Acc	1508.60	1584.10	+3.70	...
Rec Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+11.10	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	1300.20	1365.30	-20.40	...

PRUDENTIAL PENSION FUNDS
Scottish Amicable Non Series A

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
100% Safeguard	155.80	164.00	...	...
95% Safeguard	171.90	180.90	+1.80	...

SAVE & PROSPER INSURANCE AND PENSIONS
St James's House, 27-43 Eastern Rd, Romford RM1 3NH
Customer Helpline: 0845 3000144

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Inv Fund	354.90	373.60	+1.50	...
Deposit Fund (2)	649.40	683.60	+0.40	...
Gilt Fund	1388.50	1461.60	-12.50	...
Global Equity Fd	1632.20	1718.10	+29.10	...
Property Fund (46)	283.20	298.10	+0.10	...

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
0131 225 2211
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1774.00	1867.40	+25.00	...
Deposit	315.00	331.60	+0.20	...
European	2933.20	3087.60	+14.60	...
Fixed Interest	665.10	700.20	-7.30	...
Global Mgd	1466.10	1543.30	+16.90	...
Index Linked	675.70	711.30	-17.70	...
Managed	1326.20	1396.10	+8.40	...
Pacific	1161.60	1222.80	+22.40	...
Pen Worldwide	513.30	540.40	+8.60	...
Property	930.20	979.20	+0.70	...
UK Equity	1736.40	1827.80	+12.30	...
Worldwide	446.20	469.70	+6.00	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE
0141 248 6321
301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	286.40	301.50	+0.10	...
European Fund	2195.50	2311.00	+19.20	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	505.60	532.20	-7.80	...
Growth Fund	855.90	901.00	+4.60	...
International Fd	1274.40	1341.40	+18.10	...
North American	2274.70	2394.40	+49.80	...
Opportunity Fd	857.10	902.20	+6.90	...
Safety Fund	610.60	642.70	-4.70	...
UK Equity	975.10	1026.40	+2.60	...

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
0131 556 9181
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	303.70	319.70	+0.20	...
Equity	908.50	956.30	+1.90	...
Fixed Interest	666.40	701.50	-1.50	...
Index Linked	494.50	520.50	-6.90	...
International	1059.40	1115.20	+13.40	...
Managed	883.70	930.20	+4.90	...
Property	587.40	618.30	+0.60	...

Formerly Prolific

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Adventurous Mg	867.30	913.00	+6.20	...
Bal Gwth Mngd	2679.60	2820.70	+15.00	...
Cash Fund	550.00	579.00	+0.30	...
Cautious Mngd	380.90	401.00	-0.10	...
Equity Fund	3711.30	3906.70	+47.50	...
Equity Inc Dist	157.50	165.80	+0.50	...
European	856.10	901.20	+6.60	...
Extra Income Fd	1431.30	1506.70	+3.90	...
Far East	2123.40	2235.20	+35.90	...
Fxd Interest Fund	1103.40	1161.50	-3.70	...
High Income	3118.90	3283.10	+14.60	...
International	1272.00	1339.00	+16.40	...
Managed Dist	134.00	141.10	+0.40	...
North American	3721.70	3917.60	+52.70	...
Property Fund	885.70	932.40	+0.90	...
Technology	6901.00	7264.30	+215.30	...
UK Mid Cap	3438.80	3619.80	+12.50	...

Henderson Investment Bonds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	373.60	393.30	+0.20	...
European Fund	1404.40	1478.40	+10.90	...
Far East Fund	2086.50	2196.40	+35.30	...
Fixed Interest	53.60	56.50	-0.20	...
Global Managed	1546.30	1627.70	+8.70	...
North America	1663.00	1750.60	+23.60	...
UK Equity Fd	995.70	1048.20	+4.90	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS GROUP
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	364.90	384.10	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	2456.00	2585.20	-25.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	897.20	944.40	-5.80	...
Indexed Stock Fd	626.30	659.20	-12.40	...
International Fd	2423.40	2550.90	+24.20	...
Inv Cash	555.10	584.30	+0.30	...
Inv Pol 1	5468.80	5468.80	+41.60	...
Inv Pol 2	4628.90	4872.50	+35.00	...
Inv Pol 3	3815.00	4015.80	+28.40	...
Mixed Fund	1959.20	2062.30	+4.30	...
Property Fund	916.60	964.80	+0.40	...

SKANDIA LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
01703 334411
Skandia House, Portland Terrace Southampton SO9 7BX

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc	947.70	997.50	+4.90	...
Equity Acc	2090.80	2200.80	+7.60	...
Global Acc	812.50	855.20	-1.20	...
Property	580.30	610.80	+0.40	...

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	439.10	...	+0.20	...
Equity ‡	4729.40	...	+13.30	...
European ‡	1027.90	...	+10.40	...
Far East ‡	535.60	...	+10.80	...
Fixed Interest ‡	979.90	...	-14.40	...
Index Linked ‡	593.10	...	-22.50	...
International ‡	2849.40	...	+38.70	...
Managed ‡	3079.40	...	+18.90	...
Nth American ‡	1059.90	...	+17.60	...
Property ‡	833.70	...	+0.40	...

Pensions (Series 4)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	135.70	...	+0.10	...
Equity ‡	253.30	...	-0.60	...
European ‡	310.50	...	+2.00	...
Far East ‡	282.10	...	+4.80	...
Fixed Interest ‡	216.90	...	-0.60	...
Index Linked ‡	220.70	...	-9.60	...
International ‡	355.40	...	+4.60	...
Managed ‡	281.40	...	+0.80	...
Nth American ‡	402.30	...	+8.50	...
Property ‡	254.50	...	+0.20	...
Stock Exchange ‡	363.40	...	+2.60	...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ
Dealing: 01256 841414

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Account	7688.50	7688.50	-32.50	...
Equity Fund Acc	2896.10	3048.50	-12.50	...
Equity II	6714.00	7067.30	-30.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	738.10	776.90	-14.80	...
Growth Acc	9126.30	9126.30	-38.60	...
Indx-Lnkd Scs Acc	520.10	547.40	-26.60	...
Managed Account ‡	...	...	-0.90	...
Managed IV	3890.90	4095.60	-1.80	...
Mngd Fund Acc	1705.20	1794.90	-0.60	...
Money Fund Acc	341.70	359.60	+0.10	...
Pens Equity	1906.50	2006.80	-10.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	948.60	998.50	-19.10	...
Pens Guarantee	1524.90	1605.10	+1.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	661.50	696.30	-33.90	...
Pens Intl	1326.40	1396.20	+20.60	...
Pens Mngd Acct	4452.40	4686.70	+0.10	...
Pens Money	439.20	462.30	+0.30	...
Pens Property	1819.30	1915.00	+1.10	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	...	...	+0.30	...
Prop Fund Acc	1416.40	1490.90	+0.60	...

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCIAL LIFE LTD
0845 845 5555
PO Box 23042, Edinburgh EH3 8YG

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	291.20	291.20	+0.80	...
Intl Growth	440.20	440.20	+7.30	...
UK Growth	286.20	286.20	-0.30	...

WINDSOR LIFE ASSUR CO LTD
01952 292929
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire
Formerly AEtna
1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Deposit	332.70	350.20	+0.30	...
Far East Equity	1685.00	1773.70	+27.80	...
Fixed	652.00	686.30	-11.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	608.10	640.10	-21.40	...
Managed	1504.70	1583.90	+6.90	...
N Amer Equity	2363.00	2487.40	+52.90	...
Property	482.40	507.80	+0.30	...
Special Opp	2061.10	2169.60	+18.00	...
UK Equity	1660.70	1748.20	+4.50	...

Formerly AEGON Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	2098.20	2220.40	+9.50	...
Fixed Interest	604.70	639.90	-10.30	...
International	2444.30	2586.60	+36.10	...
Money	401.20	424.60	+0.40	...
Property	1215.20	1286.00	+0.80	...
UK Equity	2747.80	2907.80	+7.50	...

Formerly Crown

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Life Equity Acc	4189.00	4409.50	+11.60	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	761.90	802.00	-13.00	...
Life High Inc Acc	3428.90	3609.30	+9.30	...
Life Intl Acc	2967.50	3123.70	+44.00	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	3676.90	3870.50	+16.70	...
Life Managed Acc	2656.60	2796.40	+12.00	...
Life Money Acc	479.50	504.70	+0.60	...
Life Property Acc	712.30	749.80	+0.50	...

Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	64.27	67.65	-0.45	...
Bull	76.53	80.55	+0.35	...
Deposit	22.03	23.19	+0.02	...
Gilt Edged	35.87	37.76	-0.61	...
Owl	93.07	97.97	+0.05	...
Squirrel	29.05	30.58	+0.03	...
Stag	93.48	98.40	+0.81	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	108.90	114.60	-1.00	...
Bull	119.80	126.20	+0.50	...
Deposit	35.28	37.13	+0.03	...
Gilt Edged	56.68	59.66	-1.21	...
Owl	141.70	149.20	+0.10	...
Squirrel	47.15	49.63	+0.04	...
Stag	153.20	161.30	+1.30	...

Pre 1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
3-Way Fund	3048.20	3048.20	+14.00	...

Gresham

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American & Genrl	4717.40	4965.70	+105.80	...
Capital Fund	2599.40	2736.20	+7.10	...
Equity Fund	2961.20	3117.10	+8.10	...
Fixed Interest	612.90	645.10	-10.40	...
Income	1019.30	1073.00	+2.80	...
International Gth	3942.90	4150.40	+58.40	...
Japan & General	622.30	655.10	+9.30	...
Managed Bond	3365.70	3542.80	+15.40	...
Money Fund	525.40	553.00	...	...
Property Fund	1132.30	1191.90	+0.70	...
Recovery Fund	2719.10	2862.20	+23.80	...

WINTERTHUR LIFE UK LIMITED
01256 470707 Basingstoke RG21 6SZ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	285.70	...	...	...
Cash Inv Pens ‡	532.70	...	-0.10	...
Cash Pens ‡	146.40	...	-0.10	...
Equity ‡	1403.90	...	-0.30	...
Equity Inv Pens	9442.30	9939.30	+13.10	...
Equity Pens Cap	2377.90	2503.10	+1.60	...
Fxd Int ‡	1003.90	...	-7.20	...
Fxd Int Inv Pens ‡	2451.20	...	-12.30	...
Fxd Int Pens Cap ‡	677.60	...	-3.30	...
Idx Lk Inv Pens ‡	1479.60	...	...	...
Idx Lk Pens Cap ‡	408.40	...	-0.40	...
Key ‡	...	...	+1.70	...
Managed	1323.70	1393.40	+5.10	...
Mngd Inv Pens	3618.60	3809.00	+10.80	...
Mngd Pens Cap	912.50	960.60	+2.10	...
Pacemaker ‡	...	...	+3.50	...

ZURICH ASSURANCE LTD
0845 300 2332 Swindon SN1 1EL
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	10936.60	11512.20	+137.10	...
Managed (1)	1102.80	1160.80	+7.40	...
Managed (2)	837.90	882.00	+5.60	...
Managed (3) ‡	654.50	...	+4.50	...
Mangd Gen 4	157.50	165.70	+1.10	...
Property	1872.40	1971.00	+13.40	...
Property (1)	392.80	413.50	+2.80	...
Property (2) ‡	427.90	...	+3.10	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (1)	1566.90	1649.30	+14.10	...
Equity Acc	30835.90	32458.80	+456.10	...
Managed Acc	16969.30	17862.40	+129.60	...
Property (1)	724.50	762.70	+3.90	...
Property (2) ‡	770.70	...	+4.40	...
Property Acc	8639.00	9093.70	+47.50	...
With Profs (5) ‡	241.30	...	+0.10	...
With Profs (6) ‡	212.00	...	+0.10	...

Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (2) ‡	819.10	...	+7.50	...

British funds

Index-linked

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/-	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	374.78	-.40	1.44	1.50
110.03	99.29	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.29	-.11	...	0.98
114.15	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	98.62	-.18	...	0.62
125.00	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	103.72	-.32	1.32	0.41
119.70	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	98.49	-.35	...	0.42
120.63	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	98.06	-.43	...	0.46
378.34	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	336.26	-1.29	1.92	0.49
126.88	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	98.28	-.55	...	0.34
142.47	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	107.72	-.67	1.16	0.42
138.80	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	101.79	-.73	...	0.58
290.10	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	238.83	-1.49	1.02	0.69
135.26	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	92.56	-.82	...	0.70
155.25	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	105.00	-.88	1.13	0.76
137.45	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	89.09	-.78	...	0.86
149.67	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	95.92	-.88	...	0.89
142.10	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	86.78	-.88	...	0.91
156.04	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	94.40	-.95	0.66	0.94
144.11	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	83.25	-.85	...	1.02
146.58	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	81.06	-.86	...	1.06
168.85	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	93.11	-.99	0.82	1.07
150.21	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	79.14	-.90	...	1.07
165.86	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	86.77	-1.07	...	1.07
160.21	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	80.26	-1.10	...	1.04
209.55	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	106.50	-1.27	1.29	1.01
162.39	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	75.15	-1.02	...	1.00
164.84	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	74.48	-.88	...	0.99
184.75	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	81.23	-.96	...	0.95
182.33	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	72.89	-1.01	...	0.89
191.20	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	72.38	-.99	...	0.87
212.73	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	75.67	-1.12	...	0.70

Longs (Over 15 years)

154.08	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	77.53	-1.03	...	1.06
81.85	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	49.65	-.29	...	4.38
137.56	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	89.37	-.44	...	4.40
87.55	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	52.10	-.30	...	4.37
90.29	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	53.49	-.31	...	4.36
154.10	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	97.94	-.47	4.34	4.37
93.89	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	54.53	-.29	...	4.30
154.19	87.32	Tr 4% 60	94.24	-.41	...	4.31
60.90	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	30.17	-.20	...	4.15
117.28	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	65.91	-.28	...	4.24
148.72	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	85.01	-.36	...	4.25
92.72	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	47.68	-.21	...	4.13
77.23	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	37.32	-.19	...	4.05
103.74	88.91	Tr 3¾% 53	88.91	-.44	...	4.42
137.20	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	105.33	-.53	4.51	4.28
85.99	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	63.87	-.28	...	4.32
130.95	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	99.17	-.39	4.29	4.32
132.43	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	98.80	-.41	...	4.35
86.04	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	61.04	-.29	...	4.35
119.12	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	84.30	-.34	...	4.42
139.32	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	101.73	-.44	4.42	4.37
124.21	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	87.15	-.35	...	4.43
140.29	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	97.39	-.35	4.36	4.43
76.82	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	49.66	-.25	...	4.41
87.97	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	56.91	-.29	...	4.42
92.87	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	59.43	-.31	...	4.40
144.52	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	97.26	-.44	4.37	4.43
69.25	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	40.65	-.26	...	4.35

Mediums (5-15 years)

103.82	97.21	Tr 4⅛% 27	99.87	-.13	...	4.16
98.68	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	89.94	-.12	...	3.89
114.02	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	101.39	-.16	4.19	3.91
92.68	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	84.02	-.13	...	3.88
100.63	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	89.31	-.17	...	3.83
94.88	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	88.34	-.11	...	4.06
100.06	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	92.79	-.09	...	3.94
127.06	107.13	Tr 6% 28	110.46	-.22	5.43	3.89
92.99	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	82.49	-.17	...	3.97
95.06	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	83.36	-.19	...	3.82
90.09	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	77.63	-.26	...	3.87
124.13	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	105.77	-.35	4.49	3.86
87.42	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	74.52	-.28	...	3.91
92.63	73.06	Tr 1% 32	78.46	-.31	...	3.95
122.11	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	102.66	-.39	4.14	3.90
101.14	93.94	Tr 4⅛% 27	93.94	-.41	...	4.01
89.47	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	73.79	-.36	...	4.04
127.20	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	103.81	-.47	4.33	4.08
83.32	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	66.66	-.28	...	4.13
126.22	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	100.92	-.58	4.21	4.16
95.28	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	73.35	-.38	...	4.26
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	94.05	-.45	...	4.30

Shorts (under 5 years)

101.69	93.15	Tr 2% 25	95.52	-.02	...	4.07
100.88	98.07	Tr 3½% 25	98.07	-.04	...	4.35
95.25	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.40	-.06	...	3.92
97.62	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.52	+...	...	3.96
109.47	100.77	Tr 5% 25	101.31	-.01	4.94	4.23
96.63	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.33	+.01	...	4.38
102.84	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	98.05	+.03	...	4.31
99.42	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.42	+.04	...	4.14
101.03	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.38	+.03	...	4.33
97.80	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	97.16	+.05	...	4.33
99.23	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.97	+.04	...	4.43

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Day 2 **Budapest, Hungary**
★**Signature Experience**×: Follow in the footsteps of the Habsburg Empire as you board the Grand Empress steam train, bound for Godollo. See inside some of the ornately adorned carriages from the early 1900s and be treated like royalty as you savour lunch on board. Upon arrival at Gondollo Railway Station, see the Royal Waiting Room – a rather fitting way to end this opulent journey. Train operates on all departures between April and September. This evening, set sail for Vienna (B, L, D)

Day 3 ***Cruising the Danube River*** **- Vienna, Austria**
(B, L, D)

Day 4 **Vienna, Austria**
Day in the city's many landmarks along the Ringstrasse, as well as St Stephen's Cathedral. Later, visit the 1,441-room Schönbrunn Palace and its gardens. Otherwise, tick another country off your list and journey to Slovakia's Bratislava (B, L, D)
★**Signature Experience**×: After dinner, head to the princely family of Liechtenstein's City Palace in the heart of Vienna, where we have arranged an exclusive cocktail party and private recital, just for you. A full orchestra will perform classical masterpieces by Mozart and Strauss. You will also be enchanted by an operatic recital and a performance by some members of the Mozart Boys' Choir

Day 5 **Durnstein – Melk, Austria**
Choose to ride a bike through the Wachau Valley or cruise to Melk for a tour of Melk Abbey (B, L, D)

Day 6 **Linz, Austria – Passau, Germany**
Head to Salzburg to visit some of the sites featured in The Sound of Music. Or, set off into the Czech Republic, where Cesky Krumlov awaits. Both options conclude in Passau. Otherwise, cruise to Passau and enjoy time to explore at your leisure (B, L, D)

Day 7 **Regensburg, Germany**
In Regensburg, explore its atmospheric World Heritage-listed city centre or perhaps get active and take a guided bike ride to the Walhalla memorial (B, L, D)

Day 8 **Nuremberg, Germany**
Journey through Nuremberg's history with its Gothic churches and World War II sites. Or, keep fit with a guided walk through the Schwarzach Valley (B, L, D)

Day 9 **Bamberg, Germany**
Join an exploration with a local expert to uncover everything this World Heritage-listed city has to offer (B, L, D)

Day 10 **Wurzburg, Germany**
Embark on a walk to Wurzburg Residence. Perhaps travel to the fairytale town of Rothenburg. Or, meet the locals with a visit to a family-owned farm, where a home-baked morning tea is on the menu (B, L, D)

Day 11 **Miltenberg, Germany**
Set out on a guided exploration, wander through cobblestone streets and admire the town's enchanting half-timbered houses before time at leisure to explore on your own (B, L, D)

Day 12 **Rudesheim – Koblenz, Germany**
Take a gondola ride or a visit to Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. Later, cruise through the Rhine Valley to Koblenz. Here, perhaps join your cruise director for an evening stroll through the charming village (B, L, D)

Day 13 **Koblenz – Andernach, Germany**
★**Signature Experience**×: Visit Namedy Castle for a morning tea and piano recital in the ballroom (B, L, D)

Day 14 **Amsterdam, Netherlands**
Cruise the canals on a glass-top boat, or visit Zaanse Schans. Tonight, enjoy the Captain's farewell dinner (B, L, D)

Day 15 **Amsterdam, Netherlands**
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your fight to London> (B)

Meals are included as stated: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.
Itinerary is based 21st June 2023 departure and will operate in reverse on selected dates

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Today Cloudy and wet in the northwest, largely dry elsewhere with sunny spells. Max 21C (70F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	15	C	0.0	0.0
Aberporth	13	PC	0.0	4.9
Anglesey	13	C	1.0	5.8
Aviemore	16	R	0.0	0.0
Barnstaple	17	PC	0.0	**
Bedford	14	R	0.4	**
Belfast	14	PC	0.2	2.0
Birmingham	16	C	0.0	**
Bournemouth	18	C	0.8	6.6
Bridlington	13	C	1.0	**
Bristol	17	PC	0.0	6.6
Camborne	14	B	0.0	10.0
Cardiff	15	PC	0.0	4.9
Edinburgh	15	C	0.0	0.8
Eskdalemuir	13	PC	0.4	0.2
Glasgow	15	PC	0.0	0.0
Hereford	17	D	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	16	C	0.0	7.6
Ipswich	13	C	0.0	10.8
Isle of Man	14	PC	0.0	5.1
Isle of Wight	15	C	0.0	**
Jersey	15	PC	0.0	4.3
Keswick	15	C	0.0	**
Kinloss	17	PC	0.0	0.2
Leeds	14	C	0.6	**
Lerwick	11	M	0.4	0.0
Leuchars	16	C	0.0	1.9
Lincoln	12	C	0.0	4.2
Liverpool	14	M	1.4	**
London	16	C	0.0	6.6
Lyneham	17	PC	2.8	6.9
Manchester	16	B	2.4	3.2
Margate	13	C	0.0	4.0
Milford Haven	15	PC	0.0	**
Newcastle	15	PC	3.4	**
Nottingham	17	C	0.0	2.4
Orkney	15	PC	1.2	0.0
Oxford	16	C	18.8	**
Plymouth	18	S	0.0	**
Portland	15	PC	13.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	15	C	0.0	**
Shoreham	14	R	0.0	5.9
Shrewsbury	13	D	0.4	2.9
Snowdonia	13	B	0.0	**
Southend	14	C	0.0	2.0
South Uist	13	C	0.0	**
Stornoway	14	C	0.0	0.0
Tiree	13	C	0.0	4.9
Whitehaven	13	C	0.4	0.6
Wick	14	C	0.6	**
Yeovilton	16	S	0.0	6.1

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	20	PC	Madeira	21	PC
Amsterdam	17	PC	Madrid	18	PC
Athens	23	B	Malaga	22	PC
Auckland	20	PC	Mallorca	20	PC
Bahrain	37	S	Malta	21	S
Bangkok	36	PC	Melbourne	16	SH
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	25	C
Barcelona	18	T	Miami	31	PC
Beijing	17	R	Milan	15	R
Beirut	22	PC	Mombasa	31	PC
Belgrade	18	B	Montreal	12	PC
Berlin	18	S	Moscow	13	PC
Bermuda	23	B	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	20	S	Munich	12	DU
Brussels	17	S	Nairobi	24	B
Bucharest	24	S	Naples	24	S
Budapest	21	PC	New Orleans	30	S
Buenos Aires	20	S	New York	13	PC
Cairo	24	PC	Nice	16	R
Calcutta	35	S	Nicosia	25	PC
Canberra	11	S	Oslo	15	B
Cape Town	18	PC	Paris	18	PC
Chicago	22	B	Perth	24	S
Copenhagen	13	S	Prague	15	PC
Corfu	22	PC	Reykjavik	11	D
Delhi	36	S	Riga	13	S
Dubai	41	S	Rio de Janeiro	22	B
Dublin	14	B	Riyadh	35	B
Faro	21	PC	Rome	20	S
Florence	16	R	San Francisco	17	PC
Frankfurt	18	S	Santiago	17	S
Geneva	18	PC	São Paulo	19	PC
Gibraltar	21	PC	Seoul	25	PC
Helsinki	15	S	Seychelles	30	PC
Hong Kong	31	PC	Singapore	31	PC
Honolulu	26	R	St Petersburg	14	PC
Istanbul	17	B	Stockholm	17	S
Jerusalem	23	B	Sydney	16	S
Johannesburg	17	PC	Tel Aviv	23	B
Kuala Lumpur	34	PC	Tenerife	23	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	23	SH
Lanzarote	25	PC	Vancouver	25	PC
Las Palmas	24	PC	Venice	19	PC
Lima	22	B	Vienna	16	B
Lisbon	24	S	Warsaw	13	B
Los Angeles	19	B	Washington	20	PC
Luxor	32	S	Zurich	14	B

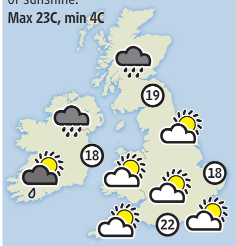
Five days ahead

Largely settled in England and Wales, patchy rain in Ireland and Scotland at times

Tomorrow

Cloudy and damp across Ireland and Scotland. Dry elsewhere with spells of sunshine.

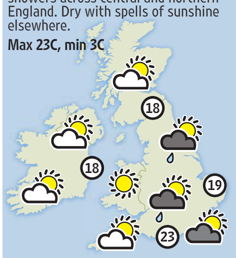
Max 23C, min 4C



Monday

Sunny periods with the risk of a few showers across central and northern England. Dry with spells of sunshine elsewhere.

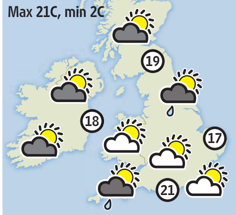
Max 23C, min 3C



Tuesday

Sunny periods with the risk of an isolated shower in England and Wales. Partly cloudy in western Ireland and western Scotland with the risk of some drizzle. Sunny spells elsewhere.

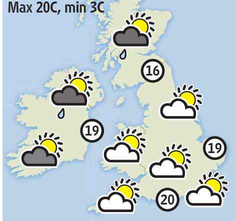
Max 21C, min 2C



Wednesday

Outbreaks of rain will spread southeastwards across Scotland and Ireland. Dry with spells of hazy sunshine in other areas.

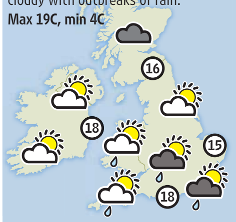
Max 20C, min 3C



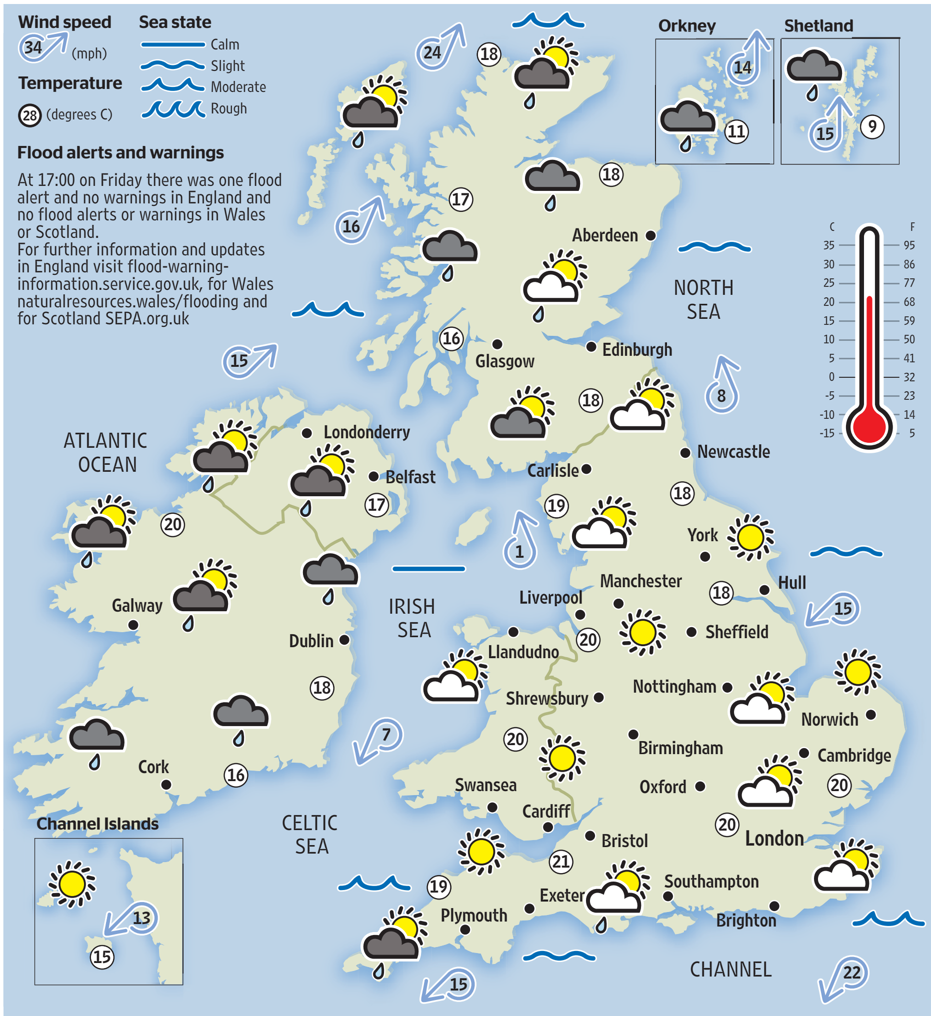
Thursday

Thick cloud and patchy rain will clear southern areas through the morning leaving a dry day with sunny spells. Northwestern Scotland will be largely cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

Max 19C, min 4C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest



Flood alerts and warnings

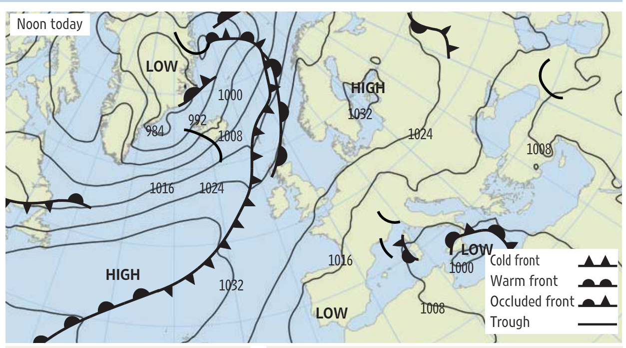
At 17:00 on Friday there was one flood alert and no warnings in England and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Cloudy with patchy rain and drizzle in Ireland and northern and western Scotland. Largely dry elsewhere with sunny spells.
London, Cen S Eng, Channel Is, SW Eng: Sunny periods with the risk of an isolated shower, particularly in the afternoon. Gentle to moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 4C (39F).
Mids, E Anglia, Wales, SE Eng, E Eng, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, NE Eng: A dry day with spells of sunshine. Light to moderate northeasterly winds, fresh around the coast of east Anglia and southeast England. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 3C (37F).
Lake District, Glasgow, SW Scotland, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, IoM, Aberdeen: A dry morning with sunny spells. Through the afternoon there will be sunny periods with the risk of a few showers. Light or gentle south or southeasterly winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 8C (46F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: A mostly cloudy day with patchy outbreaks of rain. Northwestern areas may have some sunny intervals develop in the afternoon. Light and variable winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 6C (43F).
Cen Highland, Moray Firth, N Isles, NW Scotland, Argyll, NE Scotland: A largely cloudy day with patchy rain or drizzle, turning brighter in northwest Scotland in the afternoon. Light to moderate southerly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 6C (43F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	02:24	4.1	14:41	4.1
Avonmouth	08:28	13.1	20:45	13.0
Belfast	--:--	--	12:29	3.4
Cardiff	08:20	12.0	20:33	12.0
Devonport	06:59	5.3	19:15	5.4
Dover	--:--	--	12:30	6.5
Dublin	00:34	3.8	12:51	3.9
Falmouth	06:25	5.0	18:41	5.0
Greenock	01:27	3.3	13:52	3.4
Harwich	--:--	--	13:05	3.9
Holyhead	11:34	5.5	23:54	5.4
Hull	07:29	7.2	19:45	7.4
Leith	03:40	5.4	15:59	5.4
Liverpool	--:--	--	12:21	9.1
London Bridge	02:49	7.1	15:15	6.9
Lowestoft	10:46	2.4	22:58	2.5
Milford Haven	07:25	6.8	19:42	6.8
Morecambe	--:--	--	12:31	9.1
Newhaven	--:--	--	12:26	6.5
Newquay	06:15	6.7	18:32	6.7
Oban	06:54	3.8	19:02	3.8
Penzance	05:49	5.4	18:08	5.4
Portsmouth	--:--	--	12:41	4.5
Shoreham	--:--	--	12:41	6.1
Southampton	00:02	4.5	14:22	4.3
Swansea	07:34	9.3	19:48	9.3
Tees	04:48	5.3	17:00	5.4
Weymouth	08:05	2.0	20:20	2.1



Synoptic situation

High pressure remains largely in control of the weather pattern bringing largely settled conditions. A series of weak fronts associated with an area of low pressure over Greenland will bring thicker cloud and patchy rain and drizzle to parts of Scotland and Ireland. These fronts will decay over the weekend as high pressure ridges in from the Azores.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Usk, Gwent, 19.7C
Coldest: Sennybridge, Powys, 1.1C
Wettest: Benson, Oxfordshire, 18.8mm
Sunniest: Liscombe, 12.0hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 05.01
Sun sets: 20.51
Moon rises: 05.06
Moon sets: 22.26
First Quarter: May 27

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:00-04:08
Belfast	22:00-04:38
Birmingham	21:33-04:33
Cardiff	21:34-04:42
Exeter	21:32-04:47
Glasgow	22:00-04:24
Liverpool	21:42-04:32
London	21:22-04:30
Manchester	21:39-04:29
Newcastle	21:45-04:19
Norwich	21:21-04:19
Penzance	21:38-04:58
Sheffield	21:36-04:26

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



There are mysterious rumblings in the stratosphere. A recent study detected infrasound signals, too low-pitched for humans to hear, and which only happen a few times each hour at about 13 miles in altitude. But these sounds were different from anything known at the Earth's surface and what created them is a mystery.

The troposphere, where our weather happens, is awash with infrasounds that can travel great distances. These include sounds created by thunder, tornados, ocean waves, volcanoes, earthquakes, rocket launches, wind turbines, planes and traffic. In contrast, the stratosphere is far calmer, rarely disturbed by turbulence, storms or aircraft. But it can pick up infrasounds from the troposphere and researchers have long thought that there must be an acoustic duct, a sound channel between the lower atmosphere and the stratosphere that can pass sounds long distances.

The path of infrasound waves in the atmosphere is known to depend on wind and air temperature, and when researchers filtered out these variables they found there was almost always a sound channel that showed up about six to 25 miles in altitude. And in 2021 the infrasound of a rocket launch 250 miles away was picked up in an acoustic channel. But a follow-up test with another rocket failed to record anything. One theory is that sounds can get trapped in the acoustic channel and become scrambled up, but the phenomenon is a mystery and scientists are wondering if they lack a fundamental understanding of the atmosphere.

But studies of infrasound in the stratosphere go back decades. One of the first balloon studies was by the US Army Air Force in a top-secret programme called Project Mogul, to detect infrasound signals from nuclear weapon tests in the Soviet Union in the 1940s. When one of the balloons crashed in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947 it was hushed up, but that led to conspiracy stories of UFOs at Roswell that persist today.

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Register

Obituaries

Professor Yorick Wilks

British computer scientist who created a pioneering AI character in 1997

Yorick Wilks may have shared his name with a human skull in *Hamlet*, but he would go on to give voice to the inanimate when he created an Artificial Intelligence character called Catherine in 1997.

In doing so the British computer scientist laid the foundations for automatic translation, voice search machines such as Alexa or Siri and more recently ChatGPT, a program that understands the intent behind a user's query.

Wilks led a team at the University of Sheffield that created Converse, a program that produced Catherine, an imaginary British journalist, who charmed the jury into awarding Converse the 1997 Loebner prize for AI in the US. The night before presenting to the jury, Wilks programmed Catherine with a news item about the actress Ellen DeGeneres causing a stir at the time with a gay kiss at a White House party. Wilks recalled how Catherine questioned the jury on their views about the DeGeneres incident. "Catherine knew a lot of things, and she remembered what you had said. And if you went back, or changed your mind, or said something, she spotted this."

There was nothing artificial about Wilks's own intelligence. He was a well-read polymath and a bon viveur who was probably the only academic to hold a tutorial in a Michelin-starred restaurant. He was also a dedicated thespian and a fierce debater of topical issues whether in person, online or in the letters page of The Times.

Much of his work involved developing computers' understanding of human language, especially where meaning depends on context. He gave the example of the sentence: "The village policeman is a good sport." The word "sport" can mean a game such as cricket, but here it refers to the subject's character, something that the computer is programmed to understand.

One idea was the development of an "artificial companion" to learn and store information about elderly people, including absorbing their reminiscences to pass on to future generations or giving reminders of when to take their medication. Critics called the companion unethical, but Wilks believed that for many people it would be a lifeline, comparing it to a Tamagotchi, the Japanese virtual pet. "The companion will be able to chat to you, tell jokes, even help you decide what TV programmes to watch," he said.

One of the issues that intrigued him the most was around death and the internet: what happens to a person's social media when they die? Should an artificial companion speak to survivors after its owner's death? "Talking to dead people is going to become normal," he said. "And if [the artificial companion] were programmed with sufficient dialogue and sufficient knowledge of your life, you could go on talking to your relatives for ever … Some people think this is terrible, terrible, terrible … I think this is quite fun."

Yorick Alexander Wilks was born in Buckinghamshire in 1939, the son of Alexander Wilks, a builder and furniture maker, and his wife Peggy (née Weinel). He was educated at the Latymer School, Edmonton, and during the war was evacuated to Torquay. He was 11 when his father died and his mother returned to Devon, where Yorick became head boy at Torquay Boys' Grammar School.

He went on to study physics at Pembroke College, Cambridge. "On arrival I changed to mathematics, and after a year or two I changed to philosophy," he said. "My career has been in artificial intelligence, so in some sense my life has been going down from more difficult subjects to easier ones all the way; physics, mathematics, philosophy, artificial intelligence."

In 1962 he joined the Cambridge Language Research Unit doing work on automatic translation with Margaret Masterman, his former philosophy tutor and a student of Ludwig Wittgenstein. This led to a DPhil that formed the basis of his book *Grammar, Meaning and the Machine Analysis of Language* (1972). As a postgraduate he shared a houseboat with Michael Rowan-



Wilks's capacity for fun was undimmed

Robinson, later head of the astrophysics group at Imperial College London.

Combining his passion for acting with his then left-wing politics, he appeared in a Labour Party pantomime about Dick Whittington visiting China with his cat to eradicate the rats.

Wilks joined the System Development Corporation in Santa Monica, California, in 1965, originally intending to spend a year in the US. "This was the era of Los Angeles being the centre of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll, so I had no urge to leave," he recalled. "People were wearing wonderful clothes, sitting in parks, carrying flowers, taking drugs."

The following year he became a consultant at Stanford University. Living in Hollywood, he had hopes of breaking into acting. Alas poor Yorick, it was not to be. Instead, he stayed at Stanford, becoming a lecturer in the AI laboratory. In these early years he had little funding and often sneaked into academic conferences without paying the registration fee. During a conference in France he and Roger Schank, one of his collaborators, were so bored that they climbed a mountain before racing down it on a makeshift sled.

Meanwhile, in 1965 Wilks had married Felicity Snee, a Cambridge contemporary who became a doctor. Six years later she died after catching a rare disease from a patient in Nairobi. In 1975 he married Geraldine de Berly, a Cuban-American academic with whom he had a son, Seth, a logistics manager, and a daughter, Claire, an HR generalist, who survive him.

His career was somewhat peripatetic and from Stanford he moved to Lugano, in Switzerland, but resigned when the department transferred to Geneva, which he said "was the city of Calvin, the city of extreme parasitism". Instead, he spent a year at the University of Edinburgh, appearing in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* during the 1975 Fringe.

He then decided that it was time for a "proper university job", adding: "I had always had research jobs … So I took a readership in language and linguistics in the University of Essex, becoming professor a year later."

In 1985 Wilks was appointed director of the Computing Research Laboratory at the University of New Mexico in Las Cruces. "We produced one of the first successful information extraction programs," he said. "And it works." However, his great pride and joy was a pink Cadillac. He lived in the middle of the desert, where he once had a near-death experience after being bitten by a rattlesnake. Determined not to miss a conference in Finland, he discharged himself from hospital after a couple of days.

His second marriage was dissolved in the early 1990s and he subsequently

He wanted to use AI to enable us to talk to loved ones after they die

married Roberta Catizone, a computational linguist from Pittsburgh, who also survives him with their daughters, Octavia, a doctor, and Zoe, a psychotherapist. He returned to the UK in 1993 to build the natural language processing group at the University of Sheffield and in 1998 was appointed head of the department of computer science, where the software platform Gate was also developed.

He went on to hold appointments at the Oxford Internet Institute and aged 70 he joined the Institute for Human Machine Cognition in Florida, where he spent the next ten years. He was also visiting professor of AI at Gresham College, London. His last big project, on AI and religion, funded by the Templeton Foundation, married his work and his increasingly devout Anglo-Catholic faith.

One of Wilks's goals was to reconcile the public's suspicion of AI with their desire to harness its abilities. "They love Facebook, they're going to love self-driving cars," he said. "They see the benefits, they can't imagine living without intelligent phones. People are aware that there are dangers and there are positives, and this is always true of science. Atomic energy has brought enormous benefits; it's also brought enormous dangers. There's nothing new here. Lots of science is both frightening and enormously beneficial. And AI is just like that."

Professor Yorick Wilks, AI expert, was born on October 27, 1939. He died on April 14, 2023, aged 83



Andy Rourke

Talented if troubled bassist for the Smiths whose distinctive playing propelled the band's sound

When Andy Rourke was due to make his first appearance on *Top of the Pops* with the Smiths, he went out to Marks & Spencer and bought a new polo-necked sweater for the show.

It was 1983, the height of the New Romantics movement and the charts were dominated by flamboyantly dressed peacocks such as Duran Duran and Spandau Ballet. When he arrived at the *Top of the Pops* studio, Rourke was shown into the make-up room where he was asked, "What are you going to be wearing for the show?"

"This is it," he told the surprised production staff and went on in his black jeans and sweater. "We stood out by not standing out," he said. Spandau Ballet instantly nicknamed them "the Scruffs".

However, as the singer Morrissey — who had bought a new cardigan for the show — crooned their debut hit *This Charming Man*, there was nothing scruffy about their music and over the next four years the Smiths held sway as the most original and significant British band of the era.

Marrying smart and literate lyrics to memorable tunes, they enjoyed critical adoration and ardent fan worship. Over four classic albums and hits such as *Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now*, *That Joke Isn't Funny Any More* and *There Is a Light That Never Goes Out*, they created the template for what became known as "indie" and almost every British band that followed, from the Stone Roses to Oasis, owed a debt to them.

The songs were written by Morrissey and the guitarist Johnny Marr, but the rhythm section of Rourke on bass and Mike Joyce on drums underpinned the sound expertly, and at first the group seemed to operate as a harmonious partnership.

However, rifts swiftly developed, in large part due to the increasingly contrarian and egotistical personality of Morrissey, who came to regard Rourke and Joyce as little more than expendable backing musicians rather than partners in a group of equals.

Inevitably, Rourke bridled. "I saw myself as an important part of a machine that wouldn't have worked without all of its components. It wouldn't have been the Smiths with a different bass player," he insisted.

Marr also gave Rourke more credit than Morrissey was prepared to do. "On those Smiths records Andy reinvented what it is to be a bass guitar player," he said.

However, Rourke did not help his own position in the band. "I was totally

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MIRRORPIX/GETTY IMAGES





Rourke, left, with the Smiths in 1984: from left, Morrissey, Mike Joyce and Johnny Marr; above, Marr and Rourke met as schoolboys; below, on stage in 1984

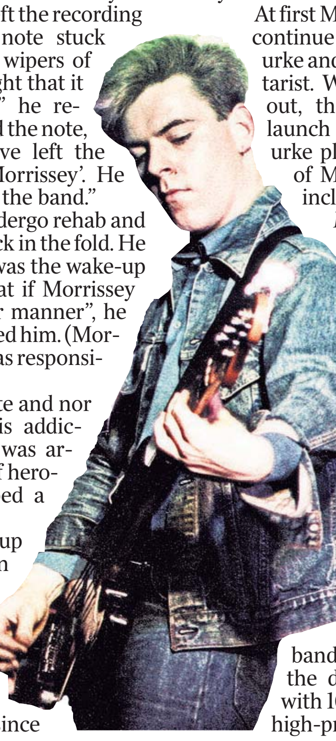
addicted to heroin," he admitted. "Overnight you're in a successful band. You start getting a bunch of money and don't know what to do. You start spending it on drugs."

It led to Morrissey deciding there was no place in the Smiths for a bass player who, as he later put it, was "unable to remember his own name".

Matters came to a head one day in 1986 when as Rourke left the recording studio he noticed a note stuck under the windscreen wipers of his car. "At first I thought that it was a parking ticket," he recalled. "But when I read the note, it said 'Andy, you have left the Smiths. Good luck, Morrissey'. He had just fired me from the band."

Rourke agreed to undergo rehab and two weeks later was back in the fold. He later conceded that it was the wake-up call he needed and that if Morrissey had "done it in a nicer manner", he might even have thanked him. (Morrissey denied that he was responsible for the postcard.)

Yet it left a nasty taste and nor had Rourke kicked his addiction. Shortly after he was arrested for possession of heroin, although he escaped a prison sentence.



The band broke up soon after in 1987 when Marr, who was also finding Morrissey impossible, walked out. It became one of the most notorious feuds in pop — the two have barely spoken since and when they have it has been to exchange insults.

Rourke's loyalties were split because Marr, whom he had known since they were 11, was his oldest friend in the group. "We were all traumatised and probably still are," Rourke remarked last year. "I didn't know whether to call him [Marr] or leave him alone. It was a really awful time."

At first Morrissey attempted to continue the Smiths with Rourke and Joyce and a new guitarist. When it did not work out, the singer decided to launch a solo career and Rourke played bass on several of Morrissey's hit singles, including *The Last of the Famous International Playboys*.

It was a decision he later regretted. "It was a big kick in the eye for Johnny," he noted with hindsight. "I felt like I had betrayed him, so it was a long while before we spoke again".

Together with Joyce he then sued Morrissey and Marr, who had taken 40 per cent each of the band's earnings — leaving the drummer and bassist with 10 per cent apiece. In a high-profile court case, the pair argued for an equal share of earnings. Rourke, who was broke, soon settled out of court for a lump sum of £83,000 and to continue to receive 10 per cent of royalties, giving up all further claims.

Joyce continued with the lawsuit and in 1995 was awarded a sum in the region of £1 million. In summing up the judge declared Rourke and Joyce to be honest and straightforward but "unintellectual" and branded Morrissey as "devious, truculent and unreliable". However, honesty did not pay the bills and in 1999 after receiving a tax demand he was unable to pay, he filed for bankruptcy.

After being arrested for heroin possession he avoided a jail sentence

In later years he lived in New York with his second wife, Francesca Mor, an American video editor whom he married in 2012. His first marriage to Maxine, who was born in Ghana, was dissolved.

Andrew Michael Rourke was born in 1964 in Manchester, the youngest of three sons. His mother Mary abandoned the family before he reached his teens and went to live in Spain with a new partner; his Irish father Michael was often away on business, leaving Rourke and his brothers the run of the house. They threw parties, indulged in youthful experimentations with drink and drugs, and there was music at all hours of the day and night, particularly after his 15-year-old schoolfriend John Maher, soon to be known as Johnny Marr, moved in with them.

Rourke and Marr played guitars together, hung out at Manchester's famed Hacienda nightclub and formed a short-lived band called Freak Party. The band broke up because they were unable to find a singer and then Marr met Morrissey. By late 1982 they were playing together in the Smiths.

Rourke was later in a number of other bands, including Freebass with former members of the Stone Roses and New Order, and D.A.R.K. with Dolores O'Riordan from the Cranberries. He also played with fellow Mancunian act Badly Drawn Boy. Yet although the Smiths were offered eye-watering sums of money to reform, relationships were too fractured for it to happen.

Despite the drugs, arguments, sackings and psychodramas, Rourke looked back on his years with the Smiths with pride and regularly spun records by his old band when working as a DJ. "No matter what's gone on in courtrooms, we were all great players and really good at what we did," he said. "People can't ever take that away."

Andy Rourke, bass player with the Smiths, was born on January 17, 1964. He died of pancreatic cancer on May 18, 2023, aged 59

Barbara Young

Character actress who appeared in I, Claudius and once 'clouted' the theatre director Joan Littlewood

When Barbara Young shopped for vegetables at Queen's Crescent market in Camden Town, traders would shout "Don't touch the mushrooms!"

The ritual started when she was playing the scheming Agrippinilla in the Bafta-winning 1976 BBC television adaptation of Robert Graves's *I, Claudius*, in which she murdered her husband, Emperor Claudius, played by Derek Jacobi, by feeding him a poisoned mushroom in order to install her mad son Nero, played by Christopher Biggins, on the imperial throne.

A landmark in British drama that was ranked 12th in the British Film Institute's list of the 100 Greatest British Television Programmes, *I, Claudius* was written by Young's husband Jack Pulman, with whom her career was closely intertwined for more than 20 years. When they married in 1956, it had been very much a case of opposites attract. He was a tax inspector and Young, in her daughter Liza's words, was "this bohemian, leopard-skin-wearing, Gauloise-smoking actress".



He was Jewish and she was not, so his mother moved in with them to teach her daughter-in-law to cook gefilte fish and matzah balls. In turn, Young persuaded her husband to throw caution to the wind and pack in his nine-to-five job and become a writer.

It turned out to be a profitable move for both of them. Pulman proved to be a skilled adapter of literary classics and she landed parts in several of them, including a 1970 TV version of *Jane Eyre* and two years later when he took on the epic task of condensing Tolstoy's *War and Peace* into a 20-part BBC series.

I, Claudius was to be the last time husband and wife worked together. Pulman died of a heart attack in 1979, leaving Young to care for their two daughters. She sold the family's detached Victorian house in Primrose Hill to Jacobi, a close family friend.

To pay the bills and perhaps to keep her grief at bay, Young threw herself into more television work. She appeared in Alan Plater's three-part 1980 adaptation of JB Priestley's *The Good Companions* and there were roles in *Dempsey and Makepeace*, *The Gentle Touch* and *The Bill*. "If she had to do a big shoot the next day and she needed to learn lines, I'd sit on the end of her bed and read scripts with her," her daughter Liza remembered.

To many her face was most familiar in *Coronation Street*, in which she appeared in 60 episodes playing four roles spread across five decades.

Her first sighting on the Street came in 1961 as Betty Ridgeway, a hostess at the Orinoco Club. She returned in 1982 as Dorothy Stockwell, whose husband Wilf ran off with Elsie Tanner. In 1991 she was Barbara Platt, whose son Martin married Gail Tilsley and in 2007 she played Rita Sullivan's long-lost friend Doreen Fenwick, a former exotic dancer who in her ten-month stay on the Street rejected three separate marriage proposals.

As in most acting careers there was also "the one that got away" and in Young's case it came when she was called to audition for the role of Barbra Streisand's mother in the 1983 film *Yentl*. She did not get the part but did receive a handwritten note from Streisand, who was also the film's producer and director, saying it had been a privilege to meet her and she hoped their paths might cross again.

Barbara Young was born in 1931 in Brighouse, West Yorkshire, the daughter of Dora (née Ratcliffe) and Jack Young, an insurance salesman. She took singing, tap dancing and elocution lessons from an early age, "because you didn't talk posh in Brighouse".

She first trod the boards in her teens with the Brighouse Players at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, and went on to study at Bradford Civic Theatre School, where Robert Stephens and Glenda Jackson also learnt their trade.

The choreographer Rudolf Laban then recommended her to Joan Littlewood, whose Theatre Workshop was then based in Manchester. At the time Littlewood was married to the folk singer Ewan MacColl and Young toured the mining communities of the Welsh valleys with him, singing folk songs from the back of a truck.

Through MacColl she also met and sang with the American folk singer Ramblin' Jack Elliott and the bluesman Big Bill Broonzy.

When Littlewood's company transferred to Stratford, east London, in 1953, Young moved with it. Yet for all her admiration for Littlewood's agitprop theatre, there was a tension between the two equally strong-willed women. When Young turned up late for a rehearsal owing to a dental appointment, it boiled over. "I had a really sore mouth and she pushed me," Young recalled. "It hurt and I just lashed out and clouted her one."

Feisty and never short of a firmly expressed opinion, Young worked well into her eighties. Late-career appearances included an eight-year stint in the daily TV soap *Family Affairs* as the gossipy but loveable barmaid Sadie Hargreaves and a spell as Nora Batty's sister Stella in *Last Of The Summer Wine*. Even failing hearing and eyesight could not stop her, and Young's final appearance came at the age of 87 in the award-winning 2018 biopic *The Keeper*, in which she played the grandmother of the legendary German footballer Bert Trautmann.

She is survived by her two daughters, Cory Pulman, an actress, and Liza Pulman, a singer and member of the cabaret act Fascinating Aïda. Liza called her mother an old school trouper who to the end would "put on her make-up and a stylish outfit and crawl to an acting job" to ensure that the show must go on.

Barbara Young, actress, was born on February 9, 1931. She died on April 27, 2023, aged 92

Readers' Lives

Marriages and engagements

Friends reunite — to gardener's delight

Ivana Sage, 49, a gardener, and **Ladislav Pernes**, 49, a plumber, were married on April 6, 2023, at Stowmarket Register Office, in Suffolk

LUCY J TOMS PHOTOGRAPHY





Ivana and Lada celebrated in the garden of one of her clients. Left, enjoying a tug-of-war with their guests

Ivana spends her days tending plants and flowers in private gardens. And on her wedding day to Lada, some of those she works for wanted to show their appreciation. One client lent their garden for the wedding celebrations and another provided Ivana with a dress that had belonged to her daughter. The wedding cake was made by the owner of another garden she cares for, and yet another provided the sandwiches.

Ivana and Lada grew up in a village outside Brno in the Czech Republic. "He was always smiling," she says. "Very sweet, but very quiet and shy." He remembers her helping other pupils. They lost contact as teenagers, and did not reconnect again until 2021.

At 16, Ivana went to study gardening and landscape at Mendel University in Lednice. Lada went on to become a plumber.

At the age of 21, she moved to Essex to work on a fruit farm. "I fell in love with England," she says.

Ivana married an English man in 1998 and they have two children, Josh, 23, and Matt, 19. After their divorce in 2008, Ivana worked as a gardener. She eventually bought a house that she shares with her dachshund, Cuba. Both her children have left home.

When Ivana returned to the Czech Republic for her mother's 70th birthday in 2021, she met up with her old classmates for a primary school reunion. Lada could not be there but invited her to meet for a coffee. She was too busy but they started a conversation that kept going, and, a few months later, she went to stay with him.

"I knew him and his family," she says. "Something just suddenly clicked. He is gentle and has the most kind heart. He always thinks about others before himself." Lada then flew back with Ivana to England, which was his first visit to the country.

They continued to visit one another regularly as their relationship developed. Lada still can't believe his good fortune that they reunited.

He enjoys her bubbly personality. "She is a friendly and caring soul with a very passionate streak," he says. "She loves life."

"We are hard-working," she says. "We don't moan about little things. We like simple living."

In April last year, they went to Stonehenge. He pulled a ring from his pocket and proposed on one knee. It was a surprise for Ivana, but something she had hoped for.

"I'm quite old-fashioned," she says. "If I love someone, I want to do it properly."

They booked to get married at Stowmarket Register Office, which was previously a vicarage. The poet John Milton was a frequent visitor in the 17th century and planted a mulberry tree in the grounds.

In December Ivana was diagnosed with breast cancer and wanted to cancel the wedding, but her surgeon encouraged her to stick to her plans. She had a single mastectomy in February and is waiting to find out if she will need chemotherapy. "I am still in shock," she says. "It was a big wake-up call."

They decided to have a small wedding and put a party on hold. The 10am "early-bird" ceremony meant they were allowed only two witnesses. Lada's English is limited so they also had a friend to translate.

Ivana kept her wedding dress a surprise and made her own bouquet, which included lily-of-the-valley, her father's favourite flower. A keen gardener, he was killed in a car accident in 1996.

Ivana and Lada arrived separately to the ceremony. Friends had helped to do her hair and make-up. He wore a tie and socks decorated with puffins, his favourite bird, which they saw on a trip to Skellig Michael Island off the west coast of Ireland.

On leaving the register office, they were greeted by a friend dressed as a chimney sweep, which is a symbol of good luck in the Czech Republic. The daughter of the client who offered her garden for the celebrations was the wedding photographer.

The couple had painted an old bicycle white, and decorated it with flowers, a "Just Married" sign, and a basket for Cuba the dog. Guests had a tug-of-war for fun, and lunch at a restaurant on the River Stour.

A client made them a wedding cake decorated with two mice in wedding outfits. "We call each other speedy mouse because we are so quick at doing things," explains Ivana. They cut the cake at Ivana's house.

For their honeymoon, the newlyweds went to stay with a former client of Ivana who has moved to Scotland. They hired a car and enjoyed the scenery. For now, Lada is still based in the Czech Republic, living with his rescue dog, Toby. Their dream is to be together with their dogs and to get a camper van.

"This is the beginning of our journey and there are a lot of obstacles," says Ivana. "I can't believe how fortunate we are."

If you would like to feature a wedding or engagement or the birth of a child on these pages, call 020 7782 5583, Mon-Fri, to discuss the content and cost, or email: readerslives@thetimes.co.uk

thetimes.co.uk/static/terms-and-conditions

New readers



Jesse Santiago Creighton was born on November 21, 2022, at University Hospital Lewisham, to **Carolina**, 36, and **Samuel Creighton**, 34



Names for the Creighton children are always hard to come by. Carolina ("Caz"), a sub-editor at The Times, wanted a name that is easy to pronounce for her Spanish relatives, but Sam was keen on one that points to his Jewish heritage. Jesse is a rare choice that worked for both.

Though he was eagerly welcomed by his siblings Ezra, six, Raphael, four, and Norah, two, this was after some initial turbulence. Ezra had insisted on holding a "gender reveal party" in their garden, but was inconsolable when he found out he was having another brother, since he wanted the symmetry of two boys and two girls. Thankfully, he had warmed to the idea by the time of Jesse's arrival. "Jesse is an incredibly calm and quiet baby," says Caz, "which is useful as his siblings are nothing of the sort."

George Archie Horace Haworth was born on November 1, 2022, at University College Hospital in London to **Eleanor**, 32, and **Giles Haworth**, 36



Adapting to life with a newborn has been a "whirlwind", says Eleanor, but it helps that they have already raised Archie, a three-year-old golden retriever, who is fiercely protective over the new addition.

George, whose middle name is a nod to his new friend, likes to lie sprawled over Archie's soft back, and Eleanor has enjoyed watching their relationship blossom on walks over Hampstead Heath. "I feel lucky to be a mum in London," she says. "There are so many different things going on — baby yoga, baby massage, 'rhyme time' at our local library."

George's other middle name, Horace, is a nod to Eleanor's grandfather, who was a captain of Nottingham Forest FC. His parents hope he'll enjoy playing football too.

The perfect gift for new parents

Celebrate the arrival of a newborn in Readers' Lives, a service in contracted tributes

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'He'll be shouting for Ireland in the rugby but England in the cricket'

CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY

THE TIMES

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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MY CHILDREN, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.
1 John 3.18 (GNB)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

CAZALET on 2nd May 2023 to Rowena (née Jones) and Tom, a son, Ludo Ranulph Edwin, brother to Rufus and Frederick.

CHIPCHASE on 15th May 2023 to Sarah (née Hurst) and Graham, a son, Alexander Robert.

DICK on 14th April 2023 to Rebecca (née Platoff) and Andrew, a daughter, Gemma Dorothy Rebecca, sister to Lucy.

MACHALE on 4th May 2023 to Isabella (née Kerr-Smiley) and Tom, a daughter, Clementine Thea.

OWEN on 6th May 2023 to Rebecca (née Whewell) and Laurence, a daughter, Constance Edythe, sister to William Aengus.

PATERSON on 4th May 2023 to Rebecca (née Langton) and Stuart, twins, Flora Grace Amelia and Isobel Kate Sigrid, sisters to Martha.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR P. RAWLENCE AND MISS F. BOWEN
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Nigel Rawlence and Carol Rawlence, and Francesca, the daughter of Bridget and the late Peter Bowen.

MR A. J. P. TAYLOR AND MISS I. A. M. BULLEN-SMITH
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Taylor of Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire, and Isobel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bullen-Smith of Hammerwood, East Sussex.

MR T. P. L. HOWELL AND MISS A. E. GODSON
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Philip and Stephanie Howell, of Hadleigh, Suffolk, and Annabel, daughter of Richard Godson of Swineshead, Lincolnshire, and Meg Godson of Welby, Lincolnshire.

MISS T. H. CRAWSHAW AND MR G. L. IMPEY
The engagement is announced between Theodora (Thea), daughter of Alison Crawshaw and the late Nick Crawshaw MBE, of East Bergholt, Suffolk, and Guy, son of Peter and Maggie Impey, of Newick, East Sussex.

MR J. C. PECK AND MISS K. S. IRESON
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Peck of Kingston upon Thames, and Katherine, daughter of Mr Tim and the late Mrs Ireson (née Looker) of Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.

MR P. A. JOHNSON AND MISS A. N. NOWICKA-MCLEES
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Peter and Ann Johnson, of Norwood, and Elizabeth Johnson, of Oldham, and Ola, daughter of John McLees and Bozena Nowicka McLees, of Chicago, USA.

MISS A. J. R. JOHNSTON AND MR O. J. D. ROYDS
The engagement is announced between Arabella, daughter of Melissa and Angus Johnston of London, and Oscar, son of Julia and David Royds of London.

MR J. D. C. ASPLAND-ROBINSON AND MISS A. J. W. WEBB
The engagement is announced between Josh, eldest son of Mrs Gail Aspland-Robinson, of Berkshire, and Mr Rick Aspland-Robinson, of Hertfordshire, and Amelia, daughter of Mr Rudi Webb and the late Mrs Andrina Webb, of London.

MR Z. WANG AND MISS Z. ZHU
Zhiwei, son of Ruxing Wang and Anfang Wang, and Ziyi, daughter of Huicheng Zhu and Zhenping Zhou, are getting married today at 116 Pall Mall. They met at the University of Cambridge and both studied engineering. Now they live and work in the City of London.

Marriages

MR H. WHITEHOUSE AND MISS H. DODD
The marriage took place on 1st May 2023, at Davenport House, Worfield, Shropshire, between Henry and Harriet. Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Whitehouse, of Brewood, Staffordshire, and Harriet, daughter of Mr Martin Dodd of Brewood, Staffordshire, and of Mrs Jennifer Napier-Dodd, of Stockwell End, Wolverhampton. The bride was attended by Miss Rebecca Mitchell, Mr Josh Moreton and Mrs Emma Morris, Miss Sophie Napier and Miss Emily Napier. Best man Mr Carl Morris assisted by ushers Mr Thomas Whitehouse, Mr William Whitehouse and Mr David Simpson. The honeymoon was being spent in the Cotswolds.

Deaths

BEDFORD Pauline (née Sturdy) died peacefully on 15th May 2023, aged 83 — a wonderful Mum to Tracey and Sara and Mama to Alice, Lydia, George, Monty and Auby. Funeral at Christ Church, Tetbury, on Friday 26 May at 1pm. Donations to the Stroke Association.

GALLAGHER
Pauline (née Fitzsimons) Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and formerly of Glasnevin, Dublin. Died peacefully, at home on 12th May 2023, in the care of her loving family. Predeceased by her beloved husband Charles. Loving mother of Brian, Peter, Yvonne, Charles, David, Andrew, Daniel, Avril and Matthew. Sadly missed by her loving children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, extended family and friends.

Requiescat in Pace.

Requiem Mass 10am Wednesday 24th May 2023. The Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Foxrock, followed by burial at Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill. For further details visit RIP.ie

GRAFFTEY-SMITH
Jane Oriana Mary (née Pollen) died peacefully on 9th May 2023, aged 81. Wife of the late Roger, mother of Simon, Selina and Max, and loving grandmother of Felix, Mia, Finn, Molly, Tom, Joshua and Jaime. Funeral will be held in St Aldhelm Church, Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wiltshire at 2pm on Friday 9th June. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, made payable to St Aldhelm Church may be sent c/o L. E. Perry, Ridgeway Coach House, 13 Hampton Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8JN.

GRAHAM
Ross King Graham, passed away unexpectedly on 13th May 2023, aged 75. Cherished husband of Jillie, much-loved father of Kirsty, Charli and Jo, and adored Grandpa to his eight grandchildren.
Funeral arrangements to celebrate his life to follow.

HARRIS
John Irwin, aged 95, passed away on 11th May at Torrwood Care Home. He was the husband of Elisabeth. They shared 68 years of marriage together. Born in Cardiff in 1928, he went on to study pharmacy and became director of studies at Bath University. He was awarded the MBE in 1992. He enjoyed many hobbies, including cricket, photography and gardening. He will be remembered for his passion for education.
He is survived by his wife Elisabeth, his daughter Susan and his grandchildren Sophie and Thomas and his great-grandchild Israel. He was predeceased by his son Jonathan. The funeral service will be held on 25th May at 2.30pm at St Thomas's Church in Wells with interment at East Horrington Burial Ground. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Children's Society. Hill & Son Funeral Directors, 18-20 St Thomas Street, Wells, Somerset BA5 2UX.

JACKSON Robert Ward on 17th April 2023 after too many months in hospital. Much-loved husband of Carlie, father of Annabel and Matthew, father-in-law to Kevin and Jacquetta, adored grandpa of Sophie, Jessica, Constance and Adeline, and friend to many all over the world. Private family cremation. Service of thanksgiving on Friday 16th June 2023 at St Bartholomew's, Haslemere GU27 1BW at 2.30pm. Please email rwjackson.memorial@gmail.com to give attendance numbers and for further details. No flowers please but donations if wished to the Stroke Association.

NICHOLSON Doctor J. Alex passed away on 28th April 2023, aged 82 years. Will be sadly missed by wife Mollie, family, friends and colleagues. Funeral service will take place at the Downs Crematorium, Main Chapel, Bear Road, Brighton, on Tuesday 23rd May at 2pm. Donations in memory of Alex to either RNLI, Oxfam or MSF UK can be sent c/o Derriman & Haynes, 56 Ladies Mile Road, Brighton, BN1 8QF.

PARKINSON Christopher David on 10th April 2023, aged 58. Geologist, formerly of the Geological Survey of Japan, University of South Carolina, University of New Orleans. Noted for research in Indonesia and Kazakhstan.

SEARLE Rev Dr John Francis at Hospiscare, Exeter, on 7th May 2023. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth, adored father, deeply loved grandfather. Private family funeral followed by a service of thanksgiving at 2.30pm on Friday 9th June at Exeter Cathedral. Donations to Hospiscare, Exeter. M. Sillifant & Sons. https://www.sillifantandsons.co.uk

STEVENS Nick on 7th May 2023 aged 72. A beloved husband, father, grandfather. Funeral, 30th May at 2.30pm at St Peter's, Freshford.

Memorial Services

LORD YOUNG OF GRAFFHAM CH at a central London location on 6th June 2023 at 11am. For further details and tickets please email rsvp@youngassoc.com

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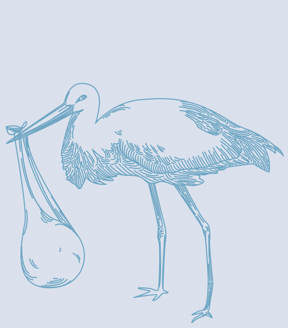
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We act for the Leaseholders of 164 Wellfield Road, London SW16 2BU. We are looking for the whereabouts of the Landlord of the said Building which is registered in the name of Moira Hanley. If you are the owner of the Building please urgently contact James Compton of Comptons Solicitors, 90-92 Parkway, London NW1 7AN (e-jc@comptons.co.uk). Failure to make contact will result in the issue of legal proceedings.

Mrs. Josephine Gilan, Address unknown, England.
Subject: Court ruling by the Court for Family Affairs in Safed, declaring your daughter, born on 15.12.2018, can be adopted You are hereby informed that on 19.5.2022 it was declared that your daughter can be adopted. You have the right to appeal this decision as determined by law. Secretariat of the Court for Family Affairs in Safed.

Mr. Sean Manning, HM Prison Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, Wandsworth, London FW18 3HS
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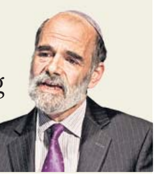
To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion



The rainbow is God's first, most universal covenant

Credo
Jonathan Wittenberg



Good things sometimes come in multiples. Last week I hadn't heard of Rainbow Day; now I've discovered that there are at least three. They are all upbeat, a celebration of life's diversity, our bond with each other and all life.

There's "Find a Rainbow Day" on April 3: created — no one seems to know by whom — "to celebrate the beauty and wonder of our natural world". And there's "World Rainbow Day" with its strapline "Remembering extraordinary people above and below the clouds."

But what first led me to the date was a reference to something incomparably more ancient, the Bible, which records how, on the 27th day of the second Hebrew month, the great flood finally abated and Noah, his family and all the animals were able to leave the ark and re-establish life on Earth. The corresponding secular date fell this week.

Rabbi David Seidenberg, who popularised its celebration, describes Rainbow Day as "a chance to reflect on the deep spiritual and religious meaning of diversity … and our role as part of creation and partners with God".

The rainbow, he adds ominously, is a sign of God's promise not to destroy the Earth, but humanity has made no similar commitment.

Rainbow Day is significant for our relationships across humanity and with nature. Being Jewish makes me viscerally alert to how important it is not just to tolerate but to respect and celebrate diversity. Hosting refugees from Iran, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Somalia has made me see the world in painful ways. It's brought the realities of injustice, hatred and cruelty closer and taught me what a proper meal, a bottle of water, a friendly hand can mean. The rainbow signifies the precise opposite of a "hostile environment".

As a rabbi, I've been challenged and deepened by listening to many and different people. If our communities, homes and especially hearts are open only to those who are so-called "normative", be that gender-normative, neuro-normative or indeed physically normative, if such a thing exists, we leave a lot of people outside and cause much pain.

The terms diversity and inclusion may be overused, but the humanity and sensitivity they demand of us are certainly not.

Rainbow Day matters no less for our relationship with non-human life. In the Bible, the rainbow is God's first and most universal covenant, "set between Me, you, and all living beings with you". We are the middle partners. Today we literally mediate between whoever or whatever we understand to be the source of all life and the destiny of every species on Earth, from the bees to the blue whales.

It's a chastening responsibility. The world's children will either thrive or suffer according to how well or badly we exercise it. If we fail for lack of imagination, moral courage or political and economic commitment, they will, and should, hold us accountable.

In the Jewish year Rainbow Day falls a week before the celebration of a further covenant: the bond with God at Sinai, celebrated on Shavuot, the Feast of weeks, and marked by the reading of the Ten Commandments.

The Hasidic teacher Rebbe Yehudah-Aryeh Leib of Ger taught that when God said "I am", every single living being experienced the words as addressed directly to them. All life is God's sacred speech.

Therefore, the very essence of the commandments is that we should treat all living beings and their habitats, from the rivers to the seas and from the fields to the forests, with respect. They are our partners on Earth, with which we are interdependent in ways even the most up-to-date science has not fully uncovered. We need them for our physical and mental survival.

In its entry for the day, the website nationaltoday.com quotes Kermit the Frog: "Rainbows are visions, they're only illusions." Kermit is too loveable a character for this to be all he has to say on the matter.

I believe in rainbows. I know we can form profound relationships of allyship and trust across humanity, in spite of, and also because of, our different faiths and cultures, despite the evidence of our bitter conflicts. The bonds between us and nature are no less existential, literally life-giving, economically and spiritually.

Rainbow Day is a time to celebrate and affirm them, deepening our allegiance with one another and all life.

Jonathan Wittenberg is the senior rabbi of Masorti Judaism and co-founder of EcoSynagogue

Court Circular

Buckingham Palace
19th May, 2023
The King was represented by Mr Edward Gillespie (His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire) at a Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr Rory Young (Building Conservationist) which was held at the Church of St John the Baptist, Cirencester, this afternoon.

Kensington Palace
19th May, 2023
The Prince of Wales, Joint Patron, the Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales, this morning received the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) at Windsor Castle.

St James's Palace
19th May, 2023
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today held Receptions in the garden of Buckingham Palace for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award.

The Band of the Household Cavalry and the Band of the Royal Marines Collingwood played selections of music during the day.

His Royal Highness, Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this afternoon held a Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

The Duchess of Edinburgh, Patron, Oscar Foundation, this evening attended the Oscar International Ball at Nobu Hotel, 22 Portman Square, London W1.

St James's Palace
19th May, 2023
The Princess Royal today carried out engagements in New Brunswick, Canada.

Her Royal Highness this morning called upon the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick (Her Honour Ms Brenda Murphy) and the Hon Blaine Higgs MLA (Premier of New Brunswick) at Government House, 51 Woodstock Road, Fredericton.

The Princess Royal, Honorary Deputy Commissioner, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, afterwards visited "J" Division Headquarters, 1445 Regent Street, Fredericton, and attended a Reception on the occasion of their One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary.

Her Royal Highness, Honorary Deputy Commissioner, later laid a wreath at The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Memorial, 17 Assomption Boulevard, Moncton.

The Princess Royal afterwards attended a Civic Reception at Moncton City Hall, 65 Main Street, Moncton.

Her Royal Highness his afternoon visited Vitalité Health Network's Veterans' Health Centre, 65 War Veterans Avenue, Moncton.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), this evening attended the One Hundred and Seventy Fifth Anniversary Concert at Wesleyan Celebration Centre, 945 St. George Boulevard, Moncton.

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The Times Saturday Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 Which 1985 Terry Gilliam film shares its name with a South American country?

2 Ryan Britt's 2022 book *Phasers on Stun!* is a cultural history of which sci-fi franchise?

3 0131 is the telephone dialling code of which Scottish city?

4 In Christian tradition, seraphim belong to the highest order of which spiritual beings?

5 In 1904, the Polar Medal was awarded to the members of which explorer's first expedition to Antarctica?

6 The convicted murderer Robert Stroud (1890-1963) was known as the "Birdman" of which US prison?

7 Planchet, Grimaud, Bazin and Mousqueton are servants in which 1844 novel by Alexandre Dumas?

8 In 2017, Peter McIndoe created the satirical conspiracy theory that "Birds Aren't ..." what?

9 The newspaper astrologer RH Naylor made his name with a horoscope for which newborn princess in 1930?

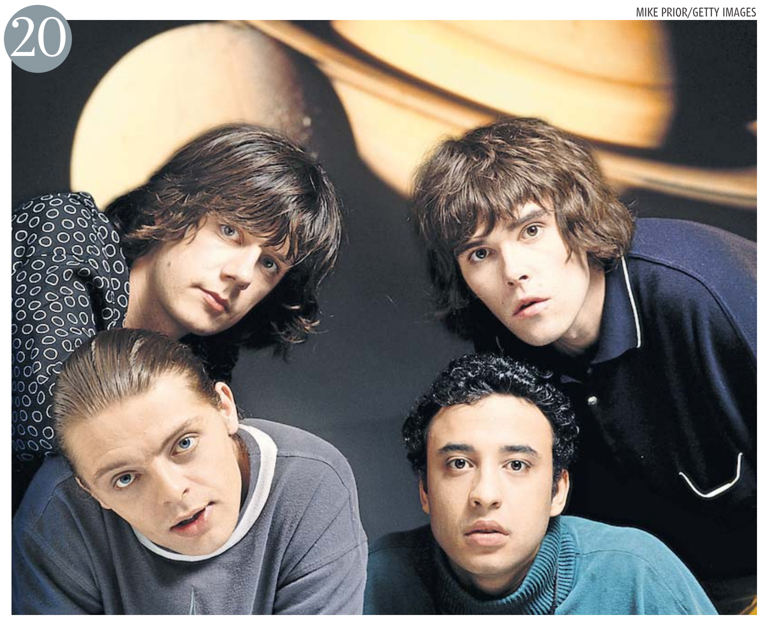
10 The deaths of 12,000 Londoners in 1952 due to smog led to the passing of which 1956 act?

11 Which German painter's *Portrait of Robert Cheseman* (1533) is in Room 7 of the Mauritshuis?

12 The northern hemisphere's largest barrier reef is named after which Central American country?

MIKE PRIOR/GETTY IMAGES

20



13 Which Austrian artist hired the doll maker Hermine Moos to create a life-size doll of Alma Mahler?

14 The Indian author of the 1966 book *Light on Yoga* founded which form of yoga as exercise?

15 Araqi is an illegal gin made in Sudan from which fruit?

16 Which 1991 Premio Planeta-winning novel by Antonio Muñoz Molina is named after a Rembrandt painting?

17 Which French ready-to-wear label was co-founded in Paris in 1984 by Évelyne Chetrite?

18 In 1957, the English runner Derek Ibbotson broke John Landy's world record in which event?

19 The Coventry Stakes is a flat horse race run every June at which racecourse?

20 Formed in Manchester in 1983, which rock band is pictured?

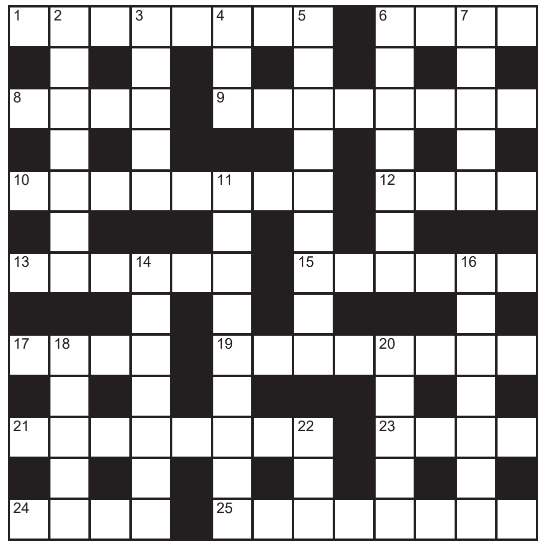
Answers below right

Last week's O Tempora! solution



O Tempora! Crossword CCCXCVIII by Auctor

A weekly crossword for the classically minded



Clues, which may be straight or mildly cryptic, always lead to answers in Latin

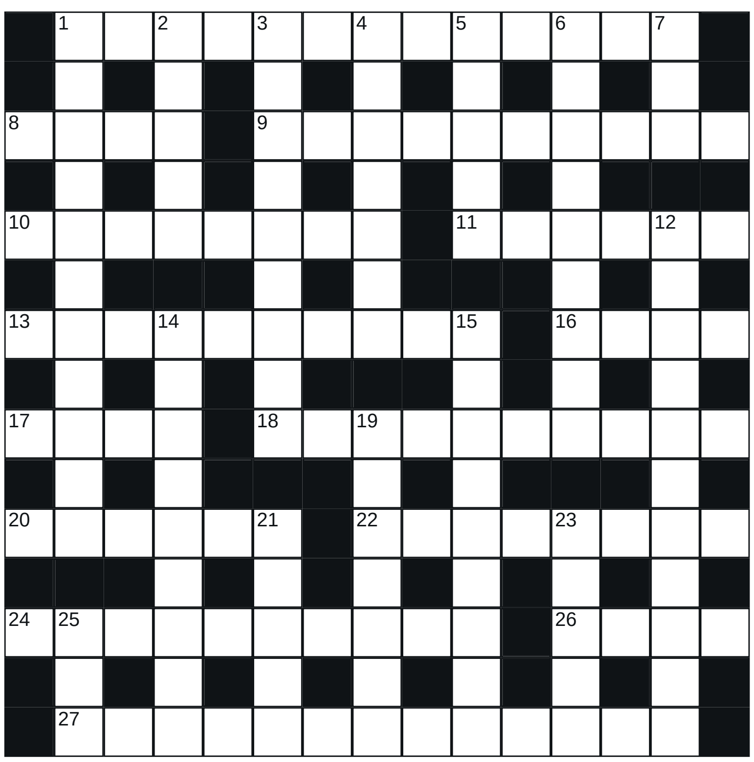
Across

1 Viri ___: vigorous chaps (8)
6 Fields (non illa Gracie sed illi ab agricolis arantur) (4)
8 Comoedia acta, ___: with the show over, she cheers (4)
9 Anxious, alarmed: pavidus, tremefactus (8)
10 Candelae ___: candles which have been lit (8)
12 Grapes or grape's (4)
13 Top, summit, apex (3rd n.) (6)
15 Aged Trojan tearfully advising Nisus and Euryalus, Aen. 9.246 (6)
17 Interrog. particle, why not? (4)
19 Lit. bedroom and, pars pro toto, marriage (8)
21 (Chap) being about to leave, eg persona poetae, Ovid Tristia 1.3.15 (8)
23 Passer aut aquila aut cygnus aut aliqui pennifer volans (4)
24 I'm going to give: inter multa alia, tradam (4)
25 Lit. it's permitted to know, now abbreviated as scil., sciz., sc. (8)

Down

2 ___ veris: with the arrival of spring (4th m. abl.) (7)
3 Is it? (5)
4 Quot homines, ___ sententiae: as many ideas as men, Ter. Phormio 454 (3)
5 Facta ___: dirty deeds? (9)
6 Spes ___forent: there'd be some hope(s), Pl. Rudens 553 (7)
7 Cum voce ___: with a hoarse voice (5)
11 The politicians of Rome (cognate with Latin for old man) (9)
14 I show, I point out: indico, ostendo (7)
16 Loot lifted from the enemy (1st f. pl): praeda, spolia (7)
18 In qua pastores defessi canentes quiescunt? Lege Eclogas Vergili (5)
20 Lesbia mea puella, olim te ___ sed iam te odi (5)
22 ___ iuris: Roman legal term, having the rights of free men (3)

Times Crossword No 28,608



A £20 Waterstones gift voucher will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened on Thursday. Enter by post to: Times Crossword No 28,608, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or by email to: prize@thetimes.co.uk, with "Crossword 28608" in the subject line. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. Winners and solutions will appear on Monday week.

Name/Address ....

....

....*

Across

1 Drunk in street, boss right to enter *The Three Bells*? (6,7)
8 Warrant ingenuity needed to defend rook (4)
9 Soldiers guarding one in Paris deserve pay (10)
10 Stop blooming predator returning to access its prey? (8)
11 Animal in mountain pasture a feline lacking tail (6)
13 With which to announce eg Hungary's first goal? (10)
16 Army presence perhaps in Dublin Bay occasionally (4)
17 Pet dog losing ball, coming across new discovery (4)
18 Item for making rolls in the kitchen, or boiler house (10)
20 I'm quite sure arts graduate's about to eat in! (6)
22 Tour extremely tiny church, finding artwork (8)
24 State in case that's set in corrupt Carolina (10)
26 Lake in Ireland viewed from the east (4)
27 Character on *Baywatch* warned off after dealing? (7,6)

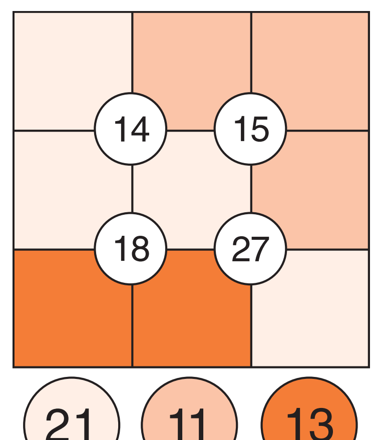
Down

1 Undisciplined brat, heiress in Trollope's county (11)
2 Level at condo partially raised, using smaller base? (5)
3 Lob rugby player giving reminder of an earlier time (9)
4 One of the first cities captured by wild Masai warrior (7)
5 Women laid up — could this get them going? (5)
6 Eliot's editor associating pen with last letter in period (4,5)
7 Habitual boozer very troublesome to start with (3)
12 Possibly where criminals meet, but for one? (11)
14 Peninsula where cool friend holds party (9)
15 Woman without issue one stopping useless soldier (9)
19 Monster movie? (7)
21 Potato dish fine, or a pudding served up cold? (5)
23 In Yorkshire, the plant that might choke river? (5)
25 Suitable for the occasion, having a pint (3)

Solution No 28,607



Suko No 3807



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct.

Solution MindGames in Saturday Review

Quiz answers 1 *Brazil*. 2 *Star Trek*. 3 Edinburgh. 4 Angels. 5 Captain Robert Falcon Scott. 6 Alcatraz. 7 *The Three Musketeers*. They are the servants of, respectively, D'Artagnan, Athos, Aramis and Porthos. 8 Real. 9 Princess Margaret. 10 Clean Air Act. 11 Hans Holbein the Younger. 12 Belize. 13 Oskar Kokoschka. 14 Iyengar yoga, founded by BKS Iyengar. 15 Date. 16 *The Polish Rider*. 17 Sandro or Sandro Paris. 18 Mile. 19 Ascot. 20 The Stone Roses.

Concise Quintagram answers
1 Wed 2 Thug 3 Frisson 4 Saturate 5 Sunderland.

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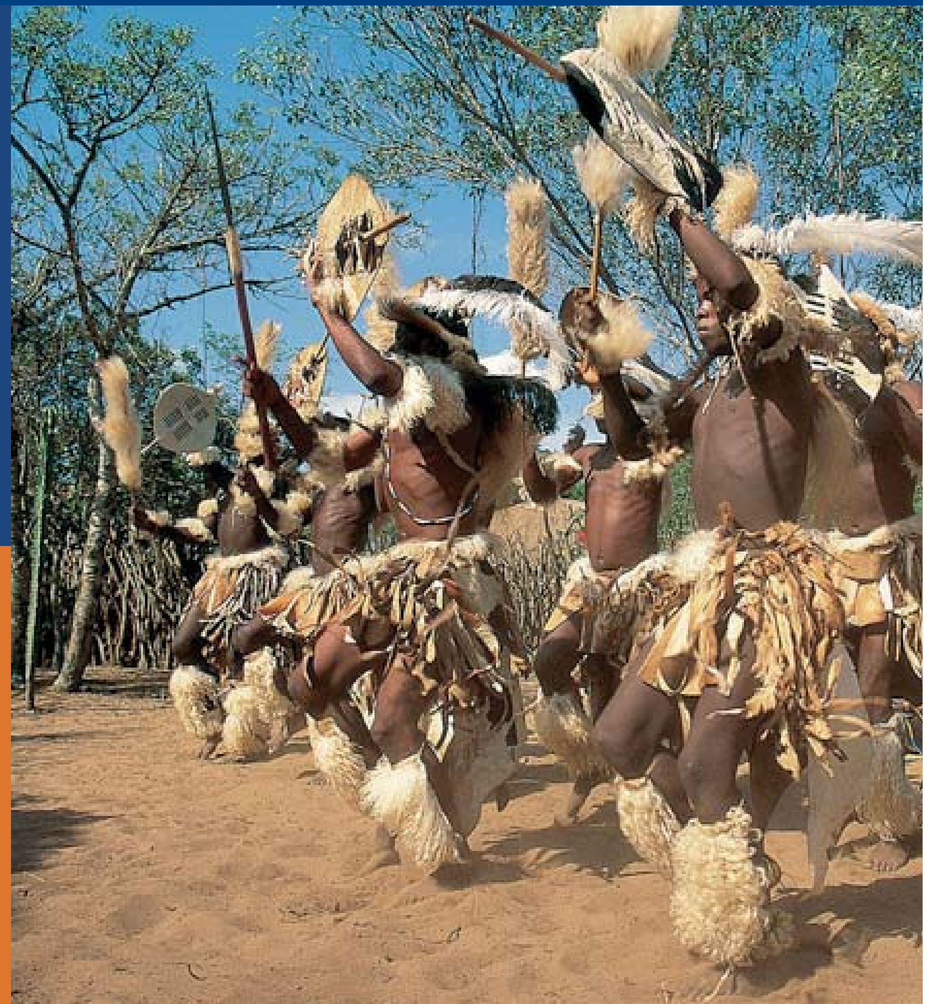
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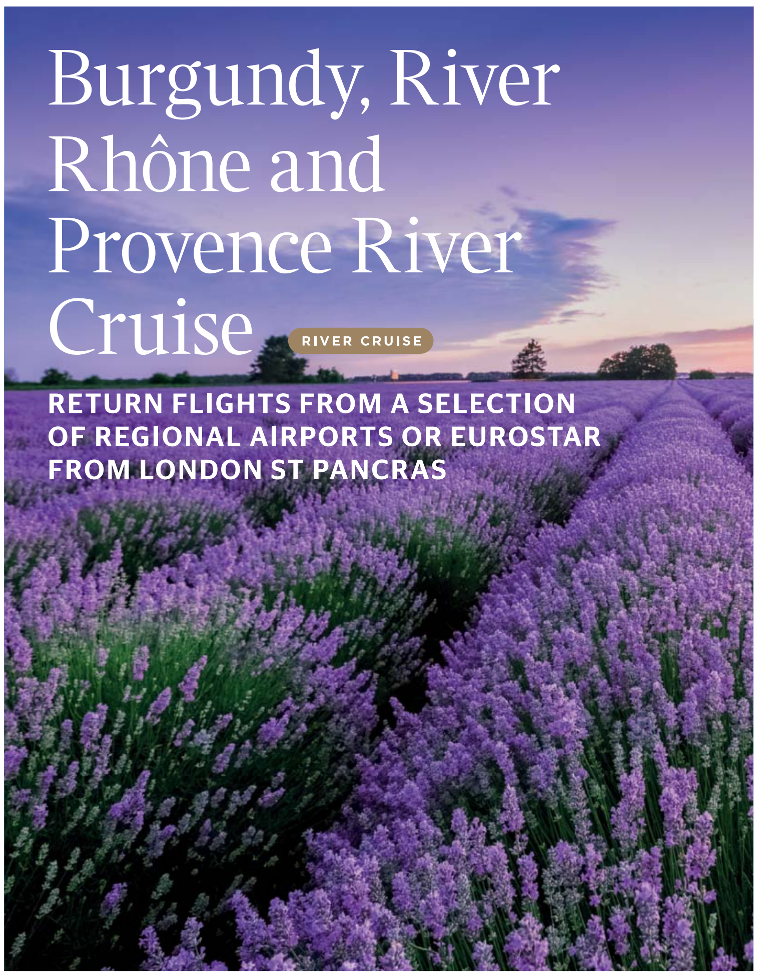
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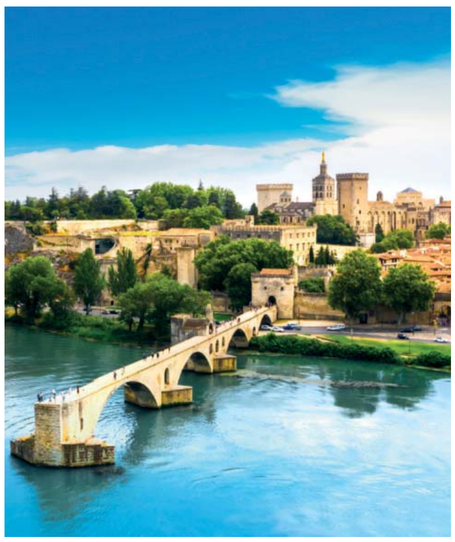




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THE TIMES
SATURDAY MAY 20 2023

Sport

Farewell to Welsh giant

Alun Wyn Jones retires from international rugby union

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ASADOUR GUZELIAN FOR THE TIMES

Sam Allardyce Exclusive

I THOUGHT MY TIME HAD GONE

Read Matt Lawton's interview
Pages 6-7

United target Atalanta striker

Paul Hirst, Ian Whittell

Manchester United could sign two strikers this summer with Rasmus Hojlund, the Atalanta forward, joining Harry Kane on their shortlist.

United have enjoyed a successful season under Erik ten Hag, despite scoring only 51 goals in 35 Premier League matches — 41 fewer than the champions-elect Manchester City.

Ten Hag wants to sign an elite striker — with Tottenham Hotspur's Kane topping the wanted list — and an up-and-coming forward, which is where Hojlund comes into the equation.

The powerful 20-year-old has scored seven goals in 29 appearances since joining Atalanta from Sturm Graz for just under £15 million last summer. He could now be available for about £40 million.

At 6ft 3in tall, quick and equipped with impressive technical ability, a lot of top clubs have been monitoring the progress of the Denmark forward, who scored a hat-trick against Finland and two more goals against Kazakhstan in March.

If United do sign two strikers this summer, it will cast doubt over the future of Anthony Martial, whose campaign has been blighted by injury and poor form.

The 27-year-old Frenchman has scored eight goals for United in 26 appearances so far this term. Marcus Rashford has been United's only consistent goalscorer this season, with 29 in all competitions.

Rashford is out of contract at the end of next season but Ten Hag admitted yesterday that he was optimistic that United and their star forward will "find each other" in their discussions on a new deal.

United have been trying for some time to tie the England forward to a long-term deal to avoid the prospect of him entering the final year of a contract as a pending free agent.

Talks have dragged on with the player, who has recovered from the leg injury that caused him to miss last week's win over Wolverhampton Wanderers, but is doubtful for today's match away to Bournemouth because of an unspecified illness.

Ten Hag admitted that he knew the reasons for the contract impasse but would not elaborate, despite his optimism about a new deal being agreed. "Yes, I know [why], but I don't talk

Continued on page 5

Arteta takes olive tree into team meetings at Arsenal

Gary Jacob

Mikel Arteta has taken an olive tree into team meetings to show his Arsenal players that roots have to be nurtured if anything is to flourish.

The Arsenal manager also planted a 150-year-old olive tree, similar in age to the club, outside his office at the training ground in London Colney, Hertfordshire, so everyone can understand the growing process. "It is very strong but needs a lot of care," Arteta said. "We have to look after the roots every single day, make sure they don't get poisoned, don't get damaged and remain in the right condition."

Last month Arteta started bringing a chocolate labrador, affectionately known as Win, to the training ground. He was hoping to exploit research that has shown that petting a dog can be calming, reduce stress levels and enhance the spirit of togetherness that has enabled Arsenal to top the Premier League table for most of the season.

Win, who enjoys grilled chicken cooked by the club chef, belongs to a member of staff, whom she lives with. "The reaction of the players has been incredible," Arteta said. "She is one of us and will be on our journey.

"She changes your mood. You come in the building and she gives all her love. Suddenly you just feel the energy and the players start hugging her, it is beautiful to watch. Those things are very important." Arteta added that a

Continued on page 3

How Pep's anger fired unstoppable charge for Treble



Paul Hirst

The away dressing room at St Mary's Stadium was not a happy place to be at about 10pm on January 11.

As soon as all the Manchester City players had entered after their 2-0 Carabao Cup quarter-final defeat by Southampton, Pep Guardiola tore into them. The tirade was so venomous that one person present described it as "the biggest rollicking in years".

Guardiola had every right to be angry. The Carabao Cup was at the bottom of City's priorities — reflected in the players' bonuses. The top stars earn about £75,000 for winning the trophy, compared with £1 million for the Champions League. But the City manager was nonetheless unhappy with what he had witnessed — a sloppy display against a team destined for relegation from the Premier League.

City were in a rut. They had failed to win two of their previous four league games and worse was to come the following weekend, when they lost the Manchester derby at Old Trafford on January 14, leaving them eight points adrift of Arsenal, who beat Tottenham Hotspur a day later, in the title race.

As Erik ten Hag, the United manager, enjoyed a celebratory meal in the Italian restaurant Cibo in Wilmslow, his City counterpart was left wondering whether he would endure only his second trophyless season since taking over in 2016.

Towards the end of January and start of February, City's coaches and analysts concluded that their squad was physically and emotionally exhausted, mainly because of their exertions at the World Cup. City had 16 players at the tournament in Qatar, which was more than any other Premier League team.

Three months after that miserable night on the south coast, City are on the verge of winning their third consecutive Premier League title and the fifth of Guardiola's seven-year reign.

If they beat Chelsea tomorrow or Arsenal drop points away to Nottingham Forest today, City will be champions with two games to spare.

The trophy presentation has been planned with military precision by the club and the Premier League. A 17-point plan has already been distributed to City staff, detailing exactly how it will unfold, from the construction of the stage to the order in which the players will collect their medals.

Strangely, those players who do not qualify for a medal because they have played fewer than five games will be invited on stage to receive a handshake, rather than a medal, from the league's top brass.

So, how exactly did City manage to turn things around and give themselves a chance of winning the Treble?

City have dropped only two points in the league — a 1-1 draw away to Forest — and are unbeaten in 23 matches since the Premier League announced on February 6 that it had charged the club with 115 alleged rule breaches. The announcement created a siege mentality within the club. "It's us against them" was the message.

Guardiola, a powerful orator, led from the front, saying at a press conference on February 10: "If we are guilty we will go to the lower divisions like before, we will call Paul Dickov and Mike Summerbee."

The Catalan's words and defiant tone unified fans and staff, who had raised concerns with their superiors. Unlike when Uefa charged City over Financial Fair Play breaches in February 2020, Ferran Soriano did not give a speech to all staff, but the chief executive did tell department heads to reassure worried employees that City were confident they would be cleared.



Haaland has been a "humble superstar"

The players saw their manager fighting for the club and they fed off that. At the City Football Academy, Guardiola kept telling his players to believe. As long as they were close to Arsenal by the time Mikel Arteta's team came to the Etihad Stadium on April 26, they would have a chance of winning the title.

They did just that, claiming some big scalps along the way. City came from behind to beat Liverpool 4-1 on April 1. Afterwards Erling Haaland, unable to play because of a groin injury, ran down from his box to the tunnel to hug each of his team-mates.

Three weeks later City hammered Arsenal 4-1 to take control of the title race. Haaland, who scored the fourth, celebrated by shouting "yesss" and punching the air in the tunnel.

Ask City staff why they have been able to find such brilliant form in the home straight and they point to a number of factors, such as the Premier League charges, the innovative tactical switch that moved John Stones into midfield and the fact that winning breeds more confidence. When they beat Aston Villa and Arsenal in the middle of February, a feeling of optimism spread. They genuinely believed the title could be won.

Guardiola did too, and so did his staff. One colleague said that the City manager spent as much time analysing clips of Sheffield United, City's FA Cup opponents, as he did Real Madrid.

By the start of this month Guardiola was incredibly focused, according to colleagues. He was tired too, of course, just like the players. When he gave the squad two days off a couple of weeks ago, Guardiola flew to Barcelona to spend time with his wife, Cristina, and their children.

With the confidence levels rising, a number of players started hitting top form. Despite a recent personal problem, Kevin De Bruyne scored two goals and set up three more in the Champions League knockout stage and he has five assists and three goals in his past five Premier League games. The captain, Ilkay Gundogan, has scored four goals in his past two league matches while Rodri, Stones, Nathan Aké and Jack Grealish have been flawless.

Then there is Haaland, of course. Guardiola has been impressed with his return of 52 goals in 49 matches, but he is equally happy with the other aspects of his game, such as his pressing, link-up play and decoy runs.

When Haaland arrived from Borussia Dortmund for £51 million last summer, there were fears that he would not fit in, but that has not been the case. He is a popular member of the squad, described by one staff member as "a humble superstar" and a team player. He enjoys mimicking the accents of squad members. In training, he will cackle like a hyena at times. He is loving life at the club, which should not come as a surprise. He has, after all, been a City supporter all his life.

Staff have noted that he is the last one down the tunnel after home games because he likes to go on a lap of honour, clapping all the fans.

So, a date with history awaits Guardiola and his team. The 52-year-old is a stickler for milestones. Whenever the team or a player breaks a record or reaches a landmark achievement, he and his staff insist that it is publicised through the club's official platforms.

The City manager will therefore be aware that, until now, only on five occasions have a team won the English top flight three times in a row. He will also be aware that no team in this country have won four league titles in succession, so that will be his aim next season. But first, he wants a Treble.

Achieving such a feat would have been unthinkable for Guardiola when he was laying into his players at St Mary's over four months ago, but now, thanks to his genius and the excellent form of his players, it is within his grasp.

The remaining fixtures

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	35	27	4	4	92	31	61	85
Arsenal	36	25	6	5	83	42	41	81

Fixtures:
Man City: Tomorrow Chelsea (H) *(4.00; TV: Sky Sports Main Event)* **Wednesday** Brighton (A) (8.0). **Sunday, May 28** Brentford (A) (4.30).
Arsenal: Today Nottm Forest (A) *(5.30; TV: Sky Sports Main Event)* **Sunday, May 28** Wolves (H) (4.30)

Owen Slot: Great team or great cheats? Page 24



THE TURNING POINT

Guardiola directs Phil Foden and Kevin De Bruyne during the 2-0 defeat at Southampton in the Carabao Cup in January. Sekou Mara, inset, and Moussa Djenepo scored in a shock victory for a side who were then managed by Nathan Jones

Lampard: I pushed Chelsea to sign Haaland back in 2019

Jon West

Frank Lampard has hinted that a lack of "appetite" among the Chelsea hierarchy led to the club missing out on signing Erling Haaland during his first spell as head coach.

Lampard, back in interim charge at Stamford Bridge until Mauricio Pochettino is confirmed as Chelsea's new head coach, takes his mid-table side to face Manchester City tomorrow knowing the home side are likely to be crowned champions at the Etihad.

Haaland's 36 Premier League goals — equal to Chelsea's entire league haul — will have been a big part of a fifth title in six seasons. Had Chelsea pushed harder in 2019, however, when the Norwegian was at Red Bull Salzburg, Lampard believes Haaland could have been playing for Chelsea instead.

"What stage did it get to? From our point, I was pushing it," Lampard said. "I'm not sure what the appetite at the club was to do it. The competition was big but there was a buyout clause that was relatively reasonable."

Borussia Dortmund signed Haaland for £17 million in December 2019 and Chelsea, then owned by Roman Abramovich, missed out.

"I don't know whether he would have decided to come here anyway," Lampard said. "But I was pushing for him."

Haaland first appeared on Lampard's radar in July 2019, when Chelsea beat Salzburg 5-3 in a friendly. The striker played for one half but did not score.



Arteta needed 24 hours to recover from Brighton loss

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

dog can bind together a family, which in this case is the Arsenal players and staff. "There are things at the club that can be done to connect with people, to show love, and I found this dog was the perfect representative of who we are now," Arteta said. "We all love winning and Win needs a lot of love."

Arsenal will be trying to build on their progress by adding depth to the squad in the summer so that they can compete in the Premier League and Champions League next season. They are likely to break their transfer record with moves for the midfielders Declan Rice, from West Ham United, and Moisés Caicedo, from Brighton & Hove Albion. They are also interested in Southampton's Roméo Lavia if they are not able to sign Rice or Caicedo.

"In order to go to the next level, the summer is going to be a crucial for us," Arteta said. "When you get closer to the top, then the margins are smaller."

He said it took him a day to get over the 3-0 home defeat by Brighton on Sunday which all but ended Arsenal's title challenge. He received 112 messages of support from other coaches and friends. "It was incredible," he said. "They all said, 'Don't lose perspective on what you guys have done.'

"I had to heal myself first for 24 hours because it was painful. Sometimes you go in bed for 12 hours and don't speak to anybody. Sometimes you need your wife, kids and dog."

'We haven't bottled it – that's just a cheap dig'

Aaron Ramsdale tells **Gary Jacob** how three relegations built his resilience and why he 'gives it back' to fans

Two days after their most crushing disappointment in a season that had promised so much, Arsenal's players returned to training to listen to an impassioned speech from Mikel Arteta. The manager realised that his players needed a boost after the 3-0 home defeat by Brighton & Hove Albion, which all but ended their title challenge.

Writing on a whiteboard, Arteta asked the dejected squad to reflect on how far they had come. Having topped the table for most of the campaign, it now looks likely that they will have to settle for the runners-up spot, behind Manchester City. But Arteta does not want his players to feel sorry for themselves and that the season is over. He has set a new target: a club record of 27 wins in a Premier League season.

"He said it's not about switching off, pressing the self-destruct button, it's about going into the final 12 days as if it was the first 12 days of the season, with two wins to go and grab," Aaron Ramsdale, the goalkeeper, says.

If they beat Nottingham Forest at the City Ground today and Wolverhampton Wanderers at home next Sunday, Arsenal will end with one more win and only three points fewer than the Invincibles of 2003-04.

Arteta tends to be restrained after matches to avoid saying the wrong thing and prefers to analyse the performance with the squad two days later, always ending the meeting showing what they did well so they leave the room feeling good.

"He will always put the positive spin on it at the end and even with Brighton, there were a lot of bad bits [but] he will end showing nice bits," Ramsdale says.

Although Arsenal have surpassed expectations and are set to finish runners-up for only the second time since 2004-05, losing the eight-point lead they held over City in March has invited questions about whether the players have choked in dropping 12 points in the past seven matches. The negative perspective frustrates Ramsdale, who points out that Arsenal are at the start of their journey whereas City are much further down the road, having won four of the past five titles.

"It does [frustrate] when it comes from certain people who don't necessarily have the knowledge or the experience," Ramsdale, 25, says.

"This narrative of 'bottled it', I think is an easy way out. It is just a quick, cheap narrative from certain people who have not gone digging into stories of what we have achieved.

"Some people are saying it and forgetting teams in other years have had the same experience and missed out. We let them worry about that, let them get views and people listening to them.

"We are disappointed but extremely proud of ourselves. It is a hugely progressive season from last year. We have to be realistic. Luckily it was my birthday because it could have been a long two days."

PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS



Ramsdale denies Liverpool's Ibrahima Konaté with one of the season's best saves

Ramsdale put aside the disappointment by celebrating his 25th birthday on Sunday with his parents, Caroline and Nick, and fiancée, Georgina, at an Asian restaurant. The day after, they went shopping in London and did some planning for their wedding at a register office this summer and a bigger event in 2025.

He is able to put things into perspective, having suffered three relegations in his career: during a loan spell with Chesterfield in League Two in 2017-18 and then twice from the Premier League, with Bournemouth and Sheffield United in successive seasons. Those experiences taught him that he needed to switch off from football by playing golf and walking his chow chow, called Blue.

"People always say, 'You can't do things if you've lost a game,' but if I'd taken that advice I would have just been sitting in a dark room in the house on my own, because I had a tough time in those two years," Ramsdale, who has three England caps, says. "I've just grown up a bit.

"Moving down to London, the clubbing side is not something I enjoy any more. I do like to have a drink with friends. I'm not desperate to go into town on a Saturday or Sunday night. I'm not constantly thinking about my football team and what I need to be doing. Or what I should have done in the last game, what I need to do in the next."

He drew on his experiences to lift the youngsters Bukayo Saka and Emile Smith Rowe when Arsenal missed out on Champions League qualification last season. "They were super disappointed and I put the perspective [to them] that we went from eighth in the previous season to fifth, and this is your first real season starting — so take the positivity," he says. "If I hadn't been relegated, I wouldn't probably know how to deal with disappointment, how to react. The pressure of a relegation battle is much worse than fighting for the title. It is enjoyable at the top of the league, trying to play with freedom, a smile.

"We will have new pressure because of the expectation of going again next year and trying to sustain that."

Ramsdale has been ever-present in the league this season, recording 13 clean sheets, and has gained a reputation for enjoying a laugh with the opposition supporters. Last season when Leicester City fans baited him, Ramsdale turned and laughed in their faces. At the north London derby in January he exchanged comments with the Tottenham Hotspur fans, one of whom kicked him when he bent down to collect his water bottle at full-time. He uses the humour as an adrenaline rush.

"Once I engage in conversation with them I have an over-hanging pressure on me, because if I mess up, that person is going to come down on me hard," he says. "That's the way I feed off it. The added pressure probably helps me. They pay their money and either rightly or wrongly, they get to say anything they want to you when you're at a place of work.

"Sometimes, you just can't take it or you don't want to take it, so you give them a bit back. If you're going to give it to me, just know if we score or you don't win, I'm going to celebrate in front of you, just like you would give me something if I made a mistake.

"At Tottenham, the banter was taken in good spirits and heart. At Liverpool, you get clapped by the Kop at the start of the half and 30 seconds later you're getting hammered. At full-time they clap and show respect. That's how I like it."

Arteta believes that few of his players have yet peaked and Ramsdale — who has doubled his wage to about £120,000 a week by signing a contract until 2027 — is among a group who have, or are about to, commit their long-term futures to the club.

Some Arsenal fans were initially underwhelmed by his arrival for an initial fee of £30 million, rising to £36 million, from Sheffield United in August 2021, but he quickly built a rapport with the supporters.

He was released by Bolton Wanderers aged 16 as the coaches thought that he was too small and not good enough with his feet. He is his own harshest critic and thinks there is more to come from him. "I don't think that goalkeeping can ever be reached or finished," he says. "It changes every year. Something new happens — a new rule change, or a new technique you have to learn."

Only a handful of the present Arsenal squad have played in the Champions League and they could face two big-name teams in the group stage if, as expected, they are placed in pot three in the seeding system. They have not played in the competition since 2016-17.

"We will be realistic," Ramsdale says. "We are not going just to take part — we want to try to see how far we can go."

Fans stopped stars' families being hurt

Gregor Robertson

The family and friends of the West Ham United players were saved from being seriously hurt by rioting AZ Alkmaar ultras thanks to the brave actions of a handful of the club's fans, according to eyewitnesses.

The brawl broke out at the AFAS Stadion in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, on Thursday night after West Ham's 1-0 victory in the second leg of their Europa Conference League semi-final, which secured a 3-1 aggregate win. A group of about 50 ultras tore down a barrier and charged towards the area where about 200 West Ham supporters, including the family and friends of the players and coaching staff, were sitting behind the away dugout.

Footage on social media showed Chris "Knollsy" Knoll, a 58-year-old electrician, repelling scores of hooded supporters from the top of a stairwell, only metres from players' guests.

"If it wasn't for him, it would have been Alkmaar [ultras going] all the way into the friends' and family section and hospitality seats," Freddie Bonfanti, a friend of Knoll who was also at the stadium, told The Times.

"God knows what would have happened," he added. "But I was afraid. They were there in big numbers. The stewards weren't doing anything, because they're not trained for that. And it took about five minutes for the police to intervene.

"They could have charged up the stairs. But he [Knoll] just stood there. He had a hip replacement a few months ago, so he can't really run away."

Bonfanti, a photographer and lighting designer, described the terror of seeing the storming of the stands.

"It was just the last thing you would expect," he said. "They just tore down the barrier. I believe Thilo Kehrer's girlfriend was in front of me. She was scared. Marlon Harewood and Anton Ferdinand were to my right, and they went down to where the players were. Saïd Benrahma's partner was there as well. David Moyes's dad was behind us. They came within two or three metres [of the players' friends and family]."


West Ham supporter Knoll desperately fends off AZ Alkmaar's ultras on Thursday and, inset, shows his passion for the club

Knoll, who returned home to London yesterday bearing scrapes and a bruise around his left eye, told Mail Online: "I'm not a hero. I just did what I had to do. There was another guy who was fending them off. I don't like bullies and just had to try and stop them. I just thought the best form of defence was to attack. You could see they were intent on causing trouble."

In a statement yesterday, Alkmaar apologised to West Ham. It read: "It turned into a night to reflect on with shame. What happened is beyond all bounds. The club sincerely apologises to West Ham United and the thousands of well-minded AZ supporters."

Uefa's independent disciplinary panel is reviewing the available evidence but is expected to launch an investigation.



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Ten Hag: Rashford keen to stay

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

about the process. Let the process go," he said.

"Once again, this is not important at the moment for me or Rashy. For him, it is to get more goals this season and he is playing a wonderful season and the team is playing a wonderful season. We have to get into the Champions League and focus on that.

"Marcus wants to stay and we want him to stay, so I think we will find each other."

Although Rashford, 25, has enjoyed the best season of his career to date, he has scored only two goals in his past ten United appearances, and only once in his past seven games.

But, with United generally finding goals difficult to come by, his absence against Bournemouth would be a blow on a day when Ten Hag could clinch Champions League football, should United win and Liverpool lose at home to Aston Villa.

A top-four finish would represent a significant success, to go with the Carabao Cup, for Ten Hag in his debut season, while he also has the prospect of an FA Cup final with Manchester City to look forward to next month.

That Wembley meeting raises the prospect of Ten Hag being able to prevent City from winning the Treble and matching the only other team in football history to achieve that: United's 1999 vintage.

GIUSEPPE MAFFIA/NURPHOTO VIA GETTY IMAGES



Hojlund has impressed for Atalanta and Denmark and is only 20

"When [the league season] is gone, yes, I will enjoy it," he said. "Before that, it is not important at all.

"I think we have to keep doing what we have all season, improve every day and improve every game and not look too far ahead. Focusing on the next game is the most important."

United also announced that the defender Phil Jones is leaving the club at the end of his present contract this summer, ending an injury-plagued 12 years at Old Trafford. The 31-year-old has played only five games in the past 3½ years for the club, due to chronic knee problems.

"I saw him in training for 20 minutes, the first training of the year," Ten Hag said. "He has had a great career, what he achieved, winning the Premier League, winning the FA Cup, winning Europa League, being present at two World Cups, a massive career at Man United. So, all the credit for his career."

Forest groundsman given ban over row with coach

Nottingham Forest's groundsman has been banned from the City Ground for two games after a pre-match altercation with Brentford's goalkeeping coach. Ewan Hunter had an argument with Brentford's Manu Sotelo before the 2-2 draw in November that centred around the length of time clubs are allowed to use the penalty area during the warm-up.

Hunter went on to the pitch to move Brentford on but disrupted a drill and ended up in an altercation with Sotelo.

The pair were charged with improper behaviour by the FA, a charge that was admitted by Sotelo, who was banned from the touchline for one match and fined £2,000. Hunter, who had denied the charge, was also fined £700.

Four-point sanction for Wigan over pay shortfall

Wigan Athletic will start the League One season in August with minus-four points after the English Football League issued its latest sanction against the club for their failure to pay players' wages.

The EFL said a further four-point deduction was suspended until the end of the 2023-24 season. That will kick in if their owner Abdulrahman Al Jasmi fails to deposit an amount equal to 125 per cent of the club's forecast monthly wage bill into a designated account by May 24.

The additional four-point deduction would also be activated if the club fail to pay players on time at any point between now and June 2024.



You must get any consents required (e.g. landlord's). UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man residential customers only. Prices may change during 18-month period. Correct at 20 May 2023. Further terms apply.

'I watched Real buckle at City in a way we didn't – I'm loving it'

SAM ALLARDYCE THE BIG INTERVIEW

Leeds manager tells **Matt Lawton** he is employing a refined approach to battling relegation… including letting players have 'brain space'



Sam Allardyce is in familiar territory. "This is the hotel where we had our wedding reception," he declares, as he climbs out of a sleek black BMW. "Fifty years next year. I think we call that backbone."

It is no more than a five-minute drive from what has been his home in Bolton for close to four decades; a relatively modest house by modern football standards, but one he says Mrs Allardyce has never had any desire to leave.

"Lynne's comfort when I'm not there is having people around her," he says. "Friends and family, kids and grandkids. You buy the big house with the gates and the long drive and you just become isolated. She's never wanted that."

This seems perfectly understandable when she is married to a man now able to reflect on more than half a century in professional football, having just taken his 14th job in management.

It is why he is not around much at the moment, with the majority of his time spent on the opposite side of the Pennines as he tries to keep Leeds United in the Premier League.

Again, this is familiar territory. "I've been here before," he says. "Battling relegation right up to the end at Sunderland, right up to the end at Crystal Palace, right up to the end at Blackburn. Even Everton represented a turnaround. We finished eighth, but things weren't good when we got there."

This latest gig, however, does appear particularly daunting, with Allardyce endeavouring to channel that vast amount of experience into the concluding four matches of an already tumultuous season at Elland Road, one in which three other men had taken charge of the team before the 68-year-old former England manager's arrival this month. Not to mention the departure of the director of football, Victor Orta.

The fixtures themselves were not exactly inviting. An opening encounter with a Manchester City side being described as the finest we have seen in English football, followed by a meeting with a Newcastle United team who are within touching distance of securing a Champions League spot.

Leeds have certainly improved since Allardyce arrived. "I saw Real Madrid buckle this week in a way that we didn't," he says, in reference to their Champions League mauling by City. But one point from those first two games — thanks to a 2-2 draw with Newcastle at Elland Road — only increases the pressure going into Sunday's match away to West Ham United and the final game of the season, at home to Tottenham Hotspur.

"I obviously wish I had more time," he says. "But it was Leeds United who were calling me. A great club, historically. Great fans. It would have always been attractive, whatever the circumstances."

It was also an opportunity to return to something he loves, after two years away from the game.

"If I'm honest, I didn't really know if I'd be back," he says. "I wasn't actively looking for another job and I thought it might have passed. People do eventually get forgotten.

"But then football does go through phases. Right now, with Roy [Hodgson, at Crystal Palace] and Neil [Warnock, at Huddersfield Town] also back in the game, the focus does seem to be on experience. So you say yes and try to do your best.

"I sit here genuinely grateful for what football has given me. I often say I've never worked in my life. The dream at nine years old was to become a footballer and at 15 I went to Bolton. The first worry was whether you'd get a pro contract. Lynne and I have been together since we were 16 and I felt that pressure, because I didn't know what I'd do if I didn't make it."



West Ham v Leeds United

Tomorrow, kick-off 1.30pm

TV: Sky Sports Main Event/PL, Radio: 5 Live

A fired-up Allardyce lets his Leeds players know exactly what he wants against City while, top right, his managerial journey

Relegation watch

Leeds United will be relegated if they lose their match away to West Ham United tomorrow, Everton win away to Wolverhampton Wanderers this afternoon and Nottingham Forest manage to avoid defeat against Arsenal at the City Ground.

Leicester City will be relegated if they lose away to Newcastle United on Monday while either Everton win or Leeds win. Leicester, the Premier League champions only seven years ago, will also go down if they draw while Everton win and Forest avoid defeat.

School in Dudley, he says, was a "struggle". "I'm dyslexic, so I found school hard," he says. "English, writing and spelling was a source of embarrassment. It was only sport, and the PE teacher, that kept me at school. I was in the football team, the swimming team, the athletics team. I went to after-school clubs. But I felt like football was my only real option and I'm genuinely grateful to everybody who has employed me over the years, even when it hasn't worked out quite how I might have wanted it to."

This is an older, wiser, rather more introspective Allardyce sitting on a Chesterfield sofa, stirring a latte. He is still Big Sam; still the giant of a man I first encountered in 1996, shortly before he was fired as Blackpool manager from Owen Oyston's prison cell; still the same zestful character who would devour a plate of pie and mash in one interview (at West Ham) while in another discuss the merits of taking his players motorised toilet-seat racing, only to then explain how he was embracing the latest advances in sports science (at Bolton Wanderers).

But for this particular task at Leeds, he is employing a more refined, measured approach.

"The difficult bit is not overloading the players," he says. "There's an appetite to change things, but you can go too far, and give the players too much to think about. It's about striking a happy medium. We're trying to address certain issues, of course. But I like the attitude of the players, I like the commitment they've shown in the last two games. As a squad, as much as they've been losing football matches and dealing with all the upheaval, they seem to have stuck together well as a group.

"Physically, we can't get them any fitter. There just isn't time. But mentally we can. We came in and realised they'd had very little time off. They'd been working relentlessly. So we've given them a break. This week, because we're playing on Sunday, they've had two days off, because sometimes you just need what I call 'brain space'."

It is about easing the considerable weight of expectation resting on their collective shoulders. This, he reveals, was his objective when he said he was on a par with Pep Guardiola and Jürgen Klopp at his first press conference as the new Leeds head coach.

He chuckles when I ask him why, at this stage in his life, he felt the need to make such a declaration. "That's about taking the pressure off the players and putting all the focus on yourself," he says. "The master taught me that; Fergie [Sir Alex Ferguson]. He said you create a diversion, a stir; say something to the press to take the attention away from players who are being criticised all the time. I went in there intending to say that. And, hey, I never said I was better than them."

It was one of a number of "quick decisions". If there has been little time to prepare for the matches, there was even greater urgency to assemble his staff.

"I called Robbie Keane at his home in Ireland that morning and he was with us by 2pm," Allardyce says. "He





began at Limerick in 1991 and led all the way to taking charge of England in 2016

didn't hesitate. Just put down the phone, put everything else he was doing on hold, told his wife he was off to Leeds and jumped on a plane. He's a great character, but I also wanted someone who could work with the forwards and who understands what it means to play for Leeds."

He also wanted his long-serving assistant Sammy Lee, only for a judge to rule that he could not be released from jury service.

"It seems to me people get out of jury service for a lot less," Allardyce says. "I know what football means to Sammy and how much it hurts him that he can't be with us. But I first worked with Karl [Robinson] at Blackburn when he was a young coach and I could see then that there was a manager in him; I hold him in very high regard."

So what did he say when he did get everyone together for the first time?

"We called all the players into the analysis room and I just said, 'I'm here to help,' here to make their life a bit easier," he says.

"In situations like this pressure is everything. The state of mind is so important. So you try to create some positivity. I wish I had more time to properly get to know the players, and the staff who were already at the club. But we're doing what we can and a few of the players have made a point of coming in to see me."

He says he is drawing on so many things he has learnt, dating back to that first managerial post: as player-manager at Limerick in 1991.

"It was a part-time role, 200 punts [at the time a punt was valued about the same as the British pound] a week," he says. "A lot of the lads would just come down from Dublin on the day of the game. I'd get in on a Thursday. I'd fly from Manchester to Dublin, and then jump on the 747 that would stop at Shannon airport — that was where they had the US customs — en route to Boston.

"I managed those lads on the pitch. I couldn't run so much then, so I put myself in the middle of a back three. But we'd travel all over Ireland in this little van and it was on those journeys that I got the lads on board and we won the league."

There would be more glamour, of course. He somehow lured players such as Youri Djorkaeff, Iván Campo and Fernando Hierro to Bolton. "We always took them to the stadium when we were trying to sign them because the training ground was shit," he says.

While at Blackburn the capture of Míchel Salgado was almost followed by the arrival of Raúl and a young Robert Lewandowski.

"Míchel said Raúl would come, but John Williams, the CEO, said he was too expensive," he says. "I honestly don't know if Lewandowski would have signed. He was a promising young kid in Poland at the time, but he never got on a plane to come over for talks because of that Icelandic ash cloud [in 2010]."

He describes himself as a "manager coach"; someone who lets his coaches do their work during the week while he very much focuses on match day.

But he is applying a lifetime of acquired knowledge. "I've experienced English football at every level," he says. "I started with coaching courses at the centre of excellence in Lilleshall when I was still playing. It was a pretty big sacrifice because you'd attend them in the summer when you actually wanted to spend time with your young family.

"As time goes by, you gain confidence in your methods. After Limerick I was the youth-team coach at Preston, and against teams from Liverpool, Everton, Manchester United and Manchester City we won the Lancashire B league. That gave me belief, as did winning the title by March at Notts County; two European qualifications in three years at Bolton."

Even in his short time at Leeds, there have been fresh challenges, not least the vile threats to Patrick Bamford and his family after the striker missed a penalty against Newcastle.

"I take that stuff, the impact social media abuse can have on someone, very seriously," he says. "In the time I've been away I've actually done some work with Andy Burnham [the mayor of Greater Manchester] and the League Managers Association on the incidence of suicide in young people. Sometimes I wonder if the world is in danger of imploding because of social media.

"We've spoken to Patrick. I've spoken to Patrick. I think he's OK. He presents himself extremely well. He's a very intelligent young man. Players miss penalties. Even Harry Kane. At the end of the day, Patrick took the responsibility on his shoulders to take the penalty at what was a crucial time for the team."

Exactly what happens to Allardyce once this season is over, he says he cannot predict. "It depends on where we finish up," he says. "And then there's obviously the talk of a possible takeover [by the investment arm of the San Francisco 49ers].

"All I can say is I'm thoroughly enjoying it. The training ground is fantastic and I love being out there again. It didn't help facing Manchester City in one of the four games. It didn't help giving away two penalties to Newcastle. But somebody had to come in and hopefully we'll find a way of helping Leeds stay in the division, because it took so long to get back here. I think we've got what it takes to succeed."

He would probably describe it as backbone.



Allardyce had the chance to sign Lewandowski when he was at Blackburn

SPORT NOTEBOOK

Martyn Ziegler
Chief Sports Reporter



Curran set for honour – but Sir Sinfield is made to wait

Sam Curran, the player of the tournament in England's T20 World Cup triumph in November, is in line for a gong in the King's first birthday honours list next month, but it looks as though there will be no knighthood for Kevin Sinfield.

Curran, the 24-year-old Surrey all-rounder, right, was also the player of the final, against Pakistan, and is expected to be honoured. Other key figures in the World Cup, including the captain, Jos Buttler, and Ben Stokes, have previously been honoured so will not feature again.



Calls for Sinfield, the former rugby league player who has raised millions of pounds for motor neurone disease charities, to be knighted after his latest effort at the inaugural Rob Burrow Marathon in Leeds last weekend are unlikely to be heeded, however.

The 42-year-old was awarded an OBE last year and the honours protocol is that recipients have to wait another four or five years before they receive a higher one.

The wait may be significantly reduced if Labour win the next election, as the party would no doubt see it as an easy PR win — in the 128 years of the sport no rugby league player has ever been knighted, while there have been a plethora of knighthoods in cricket, rugby union, football and Olympic sports.

One person from the rugby league world who is set for an honour next month is Tom Halliwell, the England captain who scored the winning try in the Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup final against France.

Moshiri's switch

The Everton owner Farhad Moshiri's Isle of Man-based company, Blue Heaven Holdings, has parted ways with Bridgewater (IOM), the firm also based on the island which had administered its affairs since it was set up in 2015.

Documents show that another Isle of Man company, Zedra Trust, was appointed as Blue Heaven's nominated agent in November, replacing Bridgewater.

The BBC reported in 2017 that the Paradise Papers leak suggested that Bridgewater had been secretly taken over by the Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov, Moshiri's former business partner, in 2011. Usmanov and Bridgewater strongly denied that was the case.

Agent's breach

The FA has published the full findings of the 20-month ban imposed on the leading agent Aidy Ward, for what the disciplinary commission chairman, Christopher Quinlan KC, calls "a concerted and targeted effort over many months to obtain a minor's signature".

Inducements including payments of £5,000 and £10,000 were made to the mother of a 15-year-old and were authorised by Ward, say the findings, which add: "This all amounts to a serious, deliberate and flagrant breach of the regulations."

A deal to represent the young player was signed and then kept until it could be lodged with the FA in the year he turned 16, the findings say. Ward and his agency, Colossal Sports Management, are appealing against the judgment.

West Brom fears

Concerns over the financial future of West Bromwich Albion rumble on after Xu Ke, the 34-year-old known around the club as Ken who is the single director of WBA Group, refused to answer any of the 38 questions submitted by independent shareholders.

The questions mainly concerned a £5 million loan taken out by the club's owner, Guochuan Lai, to prop up his Hong Kong company Wisdom Smart, and which has had several missed repayment deadlines. The shareholders were told they "are not entitled to the information sought and that confidentiality precludes responses".

West Bromwich, who finished ninth in the Sky Bet Championship this season, will not have the benefit of any parachute payments next season and have a high-interest £20 million loan to service.

Radford homage

Peter Radford, who won Olympic 100m bronze in 1960 and held the 200m world record, has written a book revealing the sporting accomplishments of British women in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

They Run with Surprising Swiftness (University of Virginia Press) covers the stories of the many female runners, footballers, cricketers, tennis players, fighters and jockeys who performed in front of large crowds, and were well known at the time, until Victorian Britain declared taking part in some of the sports to be unladylike.

Trophies, tattoos and teeth

Firmino has become renowned for his no-look finishes — such as the seventh goal in a 9-0 win against Bournemouth this season, main image. The forward has been a fans' favourite at Liverpool since joining in 2015, bottom right, with shirtless celebrations and a gleaming smile, winning the Premier League title alongside fellow Brazilians Alisson and Fabinho in 2020 and the Champions League, below, in 2019







LIVERPOOL CAREER IN NUMBERS

Appearances	Assists
360	72
Goals	**Trophies**
109	6

Firmino - the player quite unlike

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

During one of Jürgen Klopp's first meetings upon becoming the Liverpool manager, he made a point of singling out one player in front of the rest of the group.

"You don't understand how good he is," he said when addressing his squad in October 2015 and gesturing over in the direction of a shy newcomer.

Roberto Firmino, who did not have the gleaming white smile of today when he arrived from TSG Hoffenheim a few months earlier, looked rather sheepish at suddenly finding himself the centre of attention. Yet Klopp has scarcely uttered a more adroit sentence in all his time on Merseyside.

It was not that Liverpool's players did not rate Firmino — simply that, like many before him, he had found his initial months at Anfield challenging.

His merits were championed by the former sporting director Michael Edwards, the head of recruitment Dave Fallows and the chief scout Barry Hunter, resulting in the CEO Ian Ayre conducting a secretive trip to South America where the Brazil player was on international duty to seal his £29 million signing.

The deal only received the green light, however, from Brendan Rodgers, the manager at the time, after he gained assurances the club would also sign Christian Benteke for £32.5 million, having switched focus to the Aston Villa striker after an initial interest in Swansea City's Wilfried Bony.

If Firmino arrived as evidence of the dysfunction that reigned at the club at the time, he departs as a shiny emblem of one of the greatest periods in Liverpool's history. He has been both revolutionary and the conductor-in-chief, a player who won everything there was to win and became immortalised in song while doing so.

The remarkable rendition from Liverpool supporters of *Si Senor* during Monday's 3-0 victory away to Leicester City, the chant starting before the hour mark and only interrupted by the roar which greeted Trent Alexander-Arnold's stunning free kick on 71 minutes, is evidence of an emotional connection few players enjoy.

"I was very surprised because the game was away, but I was very emotional and I was very happy," Firmino said on Friday. "I don't remember the first time I ever heard it but when I knew the fans had created a song for me I was very happy because it's symbolic. It means they love me and always when I heard my song it gave me the courage and the motivation to work harder, to do more for the team and to do my best. Two days ago I sang it in the car with my family. My children asked if I could put the song on so we could sing together."

Firmino concedes there will be tears — "I will cry 100 per cent" — after his final appearance at Anfield where supporters will reminisce about the no-look goals, the kung-fu celebrations and how he galvanised the team.

There is an irony, of course, that he only became "Our Number Nine", to pinch another line from the song, by accident. Mohamed Salah had requested Firmino's No 11 shirt upon signing from Roma in the summer of 2017 and, not for the first time as it transpired, the attacker was happy to assist the Egypt striker.

While the signings of Sadio Mané and Salah are rightly lauded during Klopp's tenure, the German's decision to immediately move Firmino centrally when he took over, rather than on the flank where Rodgers had utilised him, accelerated the progress of both player and club.

Firmino's selflessness as a "false nine" saw him dropping deep and strengthening the midfield, linking play, leading the counterpress and, later on, creating space for Mané and Salah to ransack befuddled defences with the triumvirate's understanding polished daily on the training pitch.

"In the first week I was here, even I didn't know where I would be playing," Firmino said. "I can play everywhere, but Brendan Rodgers and I didn't understand each other about my position on the pitch. When the current manager arrived, we created a position, the false nine.

"Before, in my career I was a No 10. And then I came here and became a nine. I tried my best and thank God, it was very good. I say we created it together but he [Klopp] would say it was me! I tell him it was together."

The ensuing golden period can be measured in silverware: the Champions League, Premier League, Club World Cup, Uefa Super Cup, FA Cup and Carabao Cup.

Between the front three taking to the field together for the first time against Watford in August 2017, and Mané leaving after last season's Champions League final defeat by Real Madrid, they scored 338 goals and 137 assists for Liverpool.

But Firmino's time is also about the memories. He regards a winning goal against Paris Saint-Germain in the 2018-19 Champions League, when he had just returned from an eye injury, as his favourite, rather than the effort against Flamengo when Liverpool became world champions for the first time in 2019.

A personal pick was the goal against Manchester City at Anfield in January 2018 when he barged John Stones out of the way and coolly clipped an exquisite finish over Ederson in a 4-3 success. It felt like a moment. A sign that Liverpool's juggernaut was coming for Pep Guardiola's side and which would be borne out over time.



anyone else

The ability to combine flamboyance and artistry with the hard yards marked Firmino, who has 109 goals and 79 assists for Liverpool and more games [353] than anyone else under Klopp, down as different.

However, it merely backed up everything Edwards had envisaged following strong recommendations from the scout Andy Sayer and Liverpool's head of South American scouting Fernando Troiani.

One report from Firmino's time at Hoffenheim read, "it's like he's made of steel" adding "there is no ceiling."

Praise has remained similarly effusive. "Bobby plays something like 12 instruments in our orchestra," Klopp once said. "He is a complete footballer." There is no secret that Klopp wanted the 31-year-old to stay, though to no avail. "It is time, unfortunately," Firmino, who is likely to have interest from Spain, said. "The cycle here has ended and I understand it is time to go.

"I am very proud of everything that I have done here with the team, what we achieved together and the beautiful history we made together. We made history as a club and we are leaving a great legacy."

As ever, his decision-making feels right. Cody Gakpo, signed from PSV Eindhoven in January for £37 million, has emerged as heir apparent and the fact that Firmino's participation against Villa on Saturday is uncertain says much. With Champions League qualification on the line, the situation does not necessarily demand his inclusion before others.

There has already been one send-off. The players' three-day trip to Barcelona after the win over Brentford was primarily to say goodbye to Firmino as well as James Milner, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Naby Keïta, who are also leaving on free transfers.

He hopes the fans remember "my generosity and my heart" and said it was "a privilege" to be held in such high esteem. Actually, the privilege belongs to his team-mates, Klopp and the supporters who will sing themselves hoarse in homage to a player who, for a period, was quite unlike anyone else. "There's something that The Kop wants you to know/ The best in the world, his name is Bobby Firmino".

'I don't care what others say – I'm respected here'

Henry Winter



Chief Football Writer

Jordan Henderson oversaw the children's sprints, enjoyed a kickabout with pupils and chatted away to them in the sunshine outside Springfield School in Crewe on Wednesday. Henderson then strode into the assembly room and sought out Evie, a pupil too overwhelmed to join all the noisy merriment outside.

Evie was sitting on a bench, wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the Liver bird and clutching a book of pictures of Liverpool players. Liverpool's captain sat down next to her and Evie looked at him open-eyed, disbelieving. NHS therapists and teachers at Springfield had prepared Evie, knowing she might find all the commotion too much. But now here he was, going through her book, discussing her favourite players, and it meant the world to Evie.

Springfield caters for 200 pupils aged from four to 19 with severe learning difficulties, autism and complex needs relating to language and communication. Evie's NHS speech and language therapist, Alex Makin, who is embedded three days a week in the school, watched on as the pair spoke. "It's beautiful," Makin says. "Evie's a huge Liverpool fan. Evie may have experienced sensory overload outside, so it's great Jordan's come in and talked to her. We want every child to be valued here. Jordan has a lovely rapport with the children. He's even won over the Everton and [Manchester] United fans here!"

Later, Henderson found a quiet place to open up on whether Trent Alexander-Arnold can play in midfield for England — "Trent's got so much ability you've got to try to get him in the team" — Jürgen Klopp, Pep Guardiola and his own hunger. But first Evie. "She was a bit shy to come outside," Henderson says.

"She was just on her own so I tried to spend a little bit of time with her. We were just going through the players and who her favourite was. She said about five! I was one. Alisson, Virgil [van Dijk], Mo [Salah], Robbo [Andrew Robertson] — a good few. She just loves Liverpool."

He spoke to Evie and her fellow pupils about his own inspiration, Steven Gerrard. "Stevie was someone I looked up to when I was a kid," Henderson tells me later. "And then to work so closely with Stevie inspired me even more to improve."

And to think of others. Evie and her fellow pupils had raised £400 for the hypnotherapy unit at nearby Leighton Hospital for those undergoing chemotherapy who have a phobia of needles. So Henderson visited Springfield in his role as NHS Charities Together ambassador to say thanks and hand out medals and certificates at their after-school sports club and NHS Big Tea party.

Henderson's cousin is a nurse in a Sunderland hospital and his father, Brian, had his life saved by the NHS after being diagnosed with cancer, so when the NHS needed support during the pandemic, Henderson rallied to help, alongside other Premier League captains including Harry Maguire, Mark Noble and Troy Deeney. They raised millions, and it was not simply about then, it's also about now. That support continues.

"I've been trying to come here for a while; one reason [he couldn't] was the heat one day — the environment has to be right for them for us to come in," Henderson says. "But I've got to concentrate on my job, which takes up a lot of the time. My focus is 100 per cent on football. That's all it's ever been since I was a kid. I've also got my own family that I don't see very often. But there's always time to do things like this because hopefully I can put a smile on the kids' faces.

"I can get caught up in my own world and then come to a place like this and realise the things I'm maybe worrying about, things that happen in my life, aren't that big."

It has been a challenging season for Liverpool, but their seven wins on the spin have given them an outside chance of qualifying for the Champions League.

"The last few weeks have been big for us, with a few tactical changes we've made," he says. "Trent's the biggest one, coming in from full back, inverted. He's made a huge difference."

Alexander-Arnold can express his phenomenal passing range even more from a central station. More angles, more targets. Henderson, in midfield, and Ibrahima Konaté, the right-sided centre back, have to keep an eye on space vacated by Alexander-Arnold's step into midfield playmaking. "It changes my role, a few different roles, and it's a different dynamic — a few players have got to adapt a bit — but it's worked so well for the team and for Trent personally," Henderson says.

The England manager, Gareth Southgate, was at the King Power stadium on Monday when Alexander-Arnold put on another masterclass as an inverted full back. Could he perform such a role for England? "Yes, definitely, he could — whether that's starting in the midfield or doing the same job as at Liverpool, being a full back and inverting in at times. That's down to what Gareth wants, but he's given Gareth something different to think about."

Southgate announces his England squad for June's Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia on Wednesday. "I'm sure Gareth will be picking his brains on how he can get the best out of Trent, but Trent's got so much ability you've got to try to get him in the team, Henderson says."

Is he the best passer Henderson has seen? "Probably. He's up there with those I've played with. Trent is definitely special."

By backing Alexander-Arnold for midfield duties for England, Henderson makes life harder for himself. But he can appreciate the quality of a midfield of Declan Rice, Jude Bellingham and Alexander-Arnold. At 32, Henderson knows there are challenges to his position for club as well as country and that will be increasingly so when Liverpool recruit over the summer. "My job as captain is to welcome the new players, regardless of the position, and make them feel as comfortable as possible and to help them perform," he says. "That's the aim."

Henderson is 16th in Liverpool's all-time appearance list, with 490 games (33 goals, 58 assists). He has lifted the Champions League and Premier League trophies, been named Footballer of the Year, has an MBE and 75 caps (joint 24th in England's list) and yet, bizarrely, is probably underappreciated outside Anfield.

"It doesn't bother me what other people think," he says. "I'm respected on the inside [at Liverpool]. I'm appreciated by my team-mates, yes, definitely, and that's the only important bit for me. I'd like to think they think quite highly of me."

Klopp certainly does, using him in 33 of 36 Premier League games this season. "I've been so lucky to work with so many good managers and, for me, Jürgen is the best," Henderson says. "But I'll definitely say Pep is another manager that I look at and I think …" Henderson pauses, sighs and resumes. "He's just so good, tactically, [with his] knowledge of the game, the way he comes across and the confidence he has. Pep's philosophy is something I enjoy. Even though he's cost us a few titles over the past few years!"

Earlier, Henderson told pupils who his most difficult opponent was — "Luka Modric, Real Madrid" — and on seeing a United fan, Henderson added, "Marcus Rashford". Another United fan asked him the eternal "Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo?" question. "Messi," Henderson replied.

He clearly cares a lot about his profession's image. "A lot of footballers get criticised. But there's a lot of good people in football."

He adds: "There's a lot of negatives around social media, but it makes people [players] aware more of everything that's going on."

Henderson considers his own awareness of events outside football from his 2008 debut for Sunderland to now: 521 games later and about to face Aston Villa today.

"I'm so much more aware of things like Russia and Ukraine, and even a little thing like a fan who's been to the game for the first time you can be made aware of. We can give back in areas we're passionate about."

Like Springfield. "We need more resources," Makin says. "Every year we're oversubscribed. We have to turn children away and it's heartbreaking."

Makin concludes: "Our ethos is like Liverpool with *You'll Never Walk Alone*. Every pupil — like Evie — is supported. So now, for Jordan Henderson to come here and show them that everyone is valued by him, is really inspiring for them."

● *For more information, visit nhsbigtea.co.uk and nhscharitiestogether.co.uk*



Henderson thrives as he talks with children at Springfield School in Crewe

Spurs fans in fear of Kane's last day

Tom Allnutt

On the corner of Whitehall Street, in the shadow of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and a few doors down from the We Are Tottenham Pie & Mash Shop, a new tribute to Harry Kane is visible on the wall.

Splashed in blue and white, a large mural features two images of Kane, alongside the familiar lyric: "Harry Kane, he's one of our own". The painting is to celebrate Kane becoming the club's record goalscorer — another shrine for the fans as they file down from White Hart Lane station for the final home game of the season. Nobody walking past will want to consider the other possibility still hanging in the air, that this could also be Kane's final home game for Spurs.

It is worth underlining just how good Kane has been this season. Erling Haaland's astonishing first year, illuminated by Manchester City's success, has obscured Kane's brilliance, which has been diminished by Tottenham's slide into mediocrity. Without Haaland, Kane would be seven goals clear of anybody else in the Premier League. Without Haaland, Kane would surely be a candidate for player of the year. Without Haaland, Kane would be the top scorer in any of Europe's five major leagues, ahead of Karim Benzema, Robert Lewandowski and Kylian Mbappé. Without Haaland, Kane might have been playing for City.

Nobody could blame Kane for wondering what his numbers would look like in a City shirt, with Kevin De Bruyne managing the supply. Kane's shot accuracy is actually better than Haaland's this season while De Bruyne's 31 chances created is the highest in the league. Tottenham's top creator has made 13 chances and it would have been hard for Kane to convert many of those, given they came from Kane himself.

That Kane has done it for a Tottenham team devoid of creativity should only elevate his achievements. That he has done it in this World Cup-interrupted season, with the pressure of being England captain and the stress of missing that penalty, is further testament to his iron will. In a season when Lionel Messi was suspended for skipping training for a trip to Saudi Arabia and Cristiano Ronaldo's contract was mutually terminated after his exhibition of disrespect, it is easy to forget Kane's talents come with no asterisks, no ego, no fuss.

Bayern Munich, a club that puts a high value on those sorts of things, will test the water with Kane this summer. Julian Nagelsmann, who was sacked by Bayern in March, knows how serious their interest is, with the uncertainty around Kane's future at Tottenham one of his main reservations about taking over. Manchester United will push as well, after Erik ten Hag circled Kane as the solution to United's scoring problems, a Robin van Persie-type signing that could launch his side from challenger to champion in a summer. But neither United nor Bayern want a scrap and neither is willing to pay over the odds. Both have doubts a deal can be done.

The issue is that Kane's market value is different to his value to Spurs. To the market, Kane's contract expires in June 2024, when he will be available to anyone for free. He turns 30 in July and while fit and free of injury, there is a history of ankle problems to consider. To Tottenham, Kane is irreplaceable. Without the wages or Champions League football to offer, they could never sign a comparable striker. Money could be sprinkled across the squad but the Gareth Bale debacle showed the problem with that. To the market, Kane might be worth £60 million. To Tottenham, double that.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FC/GETTY IMAGES



Kane with his mural on Whitehall Street, painted to mark him eclipsing Greaves to become Tottenham's all-time top scorer

Tottenham v Brentford

Today, kick-off 12.30pm
TV: BT Sport 1
Radio: talkSPORT

Selling Kane would be a high-risk move for Daniel Levy, the chairman, too. His credit with supporters has never been lower after a season which will end without a trophy or a manager, without a director of football or a style of football, when the team conceded five in 21 minutes and Antonio Conte destroyed the players in six, when Arsenal nearly clinched the league and then Chelsea claimed Mauricio Pochettino. Fifty metres down the road from Kane's mural today will be the usual group of protestors, the banners behind them, all demanding Levy resigns. Their mood would not be improved by Kane's departure.

Which means all eyes are now on Kane, whether there is a tear in his eye or a finality in his wave as he performs the end-of-season lap of honour. Kane will have a meeting with Levy after the last game but how hard will he push if he decides his time is up? And is anyone prepared to compromise? Tottenham would be more open to selling abroad but then Kane would have to pause his pursuit of Alan Shearer's Premier League scoring record of 260 goals, of which he is currently 50 short. Levy could insist on Kane seeing out his deal but then Tottenham would lose him for free next year.

If there is one thing that has underpinned Kane's career, it is a desire to prove people wrong. He drew inspiration from Tom Brady, the NFL legend who was a 199th-place draft pick. He gained motivation after being rejected by Arsenal as a boy. He exploded in the Premier League after Pochettino said he was unfit and, when he broke the Tottenham scoring record in February, surpassing Jimmy Greaves' 266 goals, he saluted a photo of his achievement with the caption "one-season wonder", a nod to those who said he wouldn't last. The hope, then, for Tottenham fans is that success with Spurs is Kane's final frontier, the ultimate challenge to be overcome. Kane might say he has already done more than enough.

What is still at stake on penultimate weekend of WSL?

Molly Hudson

The penultimate weekend of the Women's Super League season could be decisive. With a game involving two of the top three, a pivotal Manchester derby and a vital relegation six-pointer on the schedule, there is plenty to keep an eye on.

Title race

This is the time of the season when Chelsea excel — they are bidding for a fourth successive WSL title and have peaked at exactly the right moment. On May 2, they were seven points adrift of the leaders, Manchester United, who were top for 52 consecutive days between March 25 and May 16.

But with two games to go, Chelsea are two points clear at the top and tomorrow are at home to an Arsenal side who are missing four players with anterior cruciate ligament injuries, while the influential midfielders Kim Little (hamstring) and Lia Wälti (ankle) are also out for the rest of the season.

Jonas Eidevall, the Arsenal head coach, admitted that his side need to produce "maybe our best performance of the season" if they are to win.

United are now relying on Chelsea to drop points against either Arsenal or Reading, on the final day of the season, to take the title. Chelsea can win the trophy this weekend if they beat Arsenal and United fail to beat Manchester City in tomorrow's late kick-off.

"It's a heavyweight contest," Marc Skinner, the United head coach, said. "One big punch and the other one can be knocked out." He knows that all too well after watching Chelsea beat his side 1-0 in last weekend's FA Cup final at Wembley.



Arsenal will be without Wälti for the last two games of the season after she injured her ankle against Everton

Champions League race

The top three teams will qualify for next season's Champions League. Although Arsenal can still mathematically win the title, they are more likely to be battling City for the final European spot.

United will seal qualification if they avoid defeat at home to their Manchester rivals. City will theoretically remain in the hunt for European football if they match Arsenal's result but, with Eidevall's side 12 goals ahead in the goal difference column, City realistically need to gain more points than the north London club this weekend to stay in contention.

The race could go down to the final day, when Arsenal face a difficult match against Aston Villa, who have perhaps been the surprise package of the season. Carla Ward's team will hope to consolidate fifth place, the highest finish in their history, against Liverpool at Villa Park.

Relegation battle

With two games to go, there are four teams still in relegation danger. Brighton & Hove Albion are almost safe, albeit not mathematically, given they are only five points clear of the bottom side, Reading. Tottenham Hotspur, Leicester City and Reading are separated by only three points.

Tottenham will take part in the inaugural Premier League and WSL double-header, with their game against Reading directly after the men's fixture against Brentford this afternoon.

It is a risk to move such a pivotal fixture to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and it is unclear how many supporters will be there to watch, as women's fans are relying on men's season-ticket holders to leave so that they can enter the stadium.

Leicester City, who were favourites for relegation at the turn of the year and without a single point, are on the verge of a remarkable great escape under their manager, Willie Kirk, and could seal their survival if they beat West Ham United and Reading lose or draw against Tottenham.

West Ham have the worst form in the league, having failed to win a game since December 11.

Only their form at the start of the season has saved them from relegation danger and they sit eighth. Their manager, the 42-year-old former England defender Paul Konchesky, is under significant pressure.

WSL fixtures

Today
Tottenham v Reading 4.15pm, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. **TV** FA Player, SpursPlay
Tomorrow
Chelsea v Arsenal 12.30pm, Kingsmeadow. **TV** BBC2/iPlayer.
Everton v Brighton & Hove Albion 1pm, Walton Hall Park. **TV** FA Player.
Aston Villa v Liverpool 2pm, Villa Park. **TV** FA Player
Leicester City v West Ham 3pm, King Power Stadium. **TV** FA Player.
Manchester United v Manchester City 6.45pm, Leigh Sports Village **TV** Sky Sports Football

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chelsea	20	17	1	2	61	15	46	52
Man Utd	20	16	2	2	53	11	42	50
Arsenal	20	15	2	3	49	12	37	47
Man City	20	14	2	4	46	21	25	44
Aston Villa	20	10	3	7	42	34	8	33
Everton	20	8	3	9	25	32	-7	27
Liverpool	20	6	4	10	21	35	-14	22
West Ham	20	5	2	13	19	41	-22	17
Brighton	20	4	4	12	25	60	-35	16
Tottenham	20	4	2	14	25	44	-19	14
Leicester	20	4	1	15	13	46	-33	13
Reading	20	3	2	15	22	50	-28	11

José and Pep so far apart yet always inseparable

James Gheerbrant



LARS BARON/GETTY IMAGES



Mourinho and goalkeeping coach Nuno Santos celebrate Roma reaching the Europa League final with a draw in Leverkusen

I wonder if Pep Guardiola still hangs out with Ferran Adrià, the revered Catalan chef whose legendary restaurant El Bulli was widely considered the acme of the gastronomic art. Watching Manchester City's molecular deconstruction of Real Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League semi-final on Wednesday, one had the same sense of seeing a sphere of human activity raised to its highest possible form. This was football to delight and tingle every sense, football as prepared by an innovative, obsessive perfectionist-hedonist who has thought out every last tactical micro-garnish and lovingly tweezered it into place, a performance to evoke awed gasps from the moment the cloche was lifted.

The following night, José Mourinho simply laid a damp tea-towel over the second leg of his European semi-final and let it steam in its own juices, creating a sponge so dense that it soaked up everything which touched it. Protecting a 1-0 lead against Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen, Roma had only 28 per cent possession and absorbed 23 shots while having just one — in the second minute. It was a performance which was almost classical in its utter lack of valour or intent, evoking Mourinho's magnum opus, the 2010 Champions League semi-final between Inter and Barcelona.

And you know what? There was something to enjoy in both. That, in 2023, Guardiola's football represents a near-perfection of this sport and Mourinho's does not is a truth that no reasonable judge would contest. But football is richer and more interesting because Mourinho's way of playing exists too. Sometimes you want to have your insular cortex lit up by a precisely executed work of imaginative genius. And sometimes you just want a good old-fashioned steamed pudding.

Mourinho turned 60 in January. Roma's showdown with the Europa League maestros Sevilla in Budapest at the end of this month will be his sixth European final: his first was 20 years ago, when Porto beat Celtic 3-2 in the same competition (then the Uefa Cup) and he looked like a smoulderingly handsome telenovela villain. (Historical curiosity: the 600-word BBC website report on that match doesn't mention the Porto manager once, a reminder that Mourinho turned himself from a nobody into a noble of this sport.)

It is quite possible that Mourinho and Guardiola, still probably the two defining and greatest coaches of the 21st century, will hold the two biggest trophies in European football at the end of this season, by which time they will have coached in ten major European finals between them. Their hold on this sport, its ideas and emotions, its spectacles and spoils, is remarkable in its span. And perhaps this is a moment simply to savour the gift of their coexistence.

At times in their long acquaintance, it has felt like a zero-sum rivalry, like one man's victory is the other's dishonour. But with the distance of history, I think it will look more like a duopoly, a coincidence of greatness, the football-coaching equivalent of Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal, or The Beatles and The Rolling Stones.

Mourinho is obviously not in Guardiola's class any more — and in fairness, he has been doing this for a decade longer — but whatever you think of his later career (and I was more critical than many of his spells at Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur) his undying ability to win knockout ties, even in the deep autumn of his career, is worthy of acclaim.

It is debatable whether Mourinho has got his mojo back at Roma, or simply found himself in a setting where his palette of abilities can be more appreciated. For the *Giallorossi*, he has been the same coach that he has been ever since he passed his peak. In fact, the returns of late for José have been remarkably consistent: in six of his past seven seasons, his teams have won somewhere between 1.5 and 1.85 points per game, nowhere near good enough to mount a title challenge, but he has also reached five serious cup finals in that time. In league play, his focus on containment is too constraining; he has essentially become a specialist in the mano-a-mano grapple of knockout football, where his mastery of the low block and the low blow remains effective.

If there is a sense of renewed strength about Mourinho, perhaps it is more spiritual, metaphysical. He just looks happier these days than he did in his past two Premier League postings. Perhaps it is to do with Italian football. There is a Spanish word, *querencia*, meaning the place from which one draws one's strength, and where one can comfortably be one's authentic self. It feels like Mourinho has found that in Italy, where there is a tradition of reactive football, an appreciation of the art of denial, and at Roma especially, a club just small enough to suit Mourinho's underdog mentality, just big enough to suit his taste for the epic. And it probably doesn't hurt that he has put some distance between himself and Guardiola.

I once read a beautiful piece by the great *Sports Illustrated* writer Gary Smith on the occasion of a gathering of the men who had held the mile world record, which observed that it was the fate of every attendee bar one "to stand in the shade of the ones who had eclipsed your glory". This was Mourinho's problem, the root of the unhappiness of the Manchester and Tottenham years: for as long as he was in England, he was in Guardiola's shade, and not just for one night in black tie, but for every waking hour of his professional existence. It was no life for a born winner, a man with dominance in his genome. He went from being agreeably spiky to a weirdly stunted and pallid version of himself, like an etiolated cactus, reaching for light.

Mourinho is free of Guardiola now and, in the parlance of online fandom, Guardiola is "clear" of Mourinho. The war has been won, the supremacy of his way proven beyond question. It would be easy to look at Mourinho, and at the football City played against Real Madrid, and to think they have absolutely nothing to do with each other.

But of course, that's not quite right. That defeat against Inter 13 years ago, the sting of being outwitted by Mourinho, was the original hurt at the start of Guardiola's odyssey, an exploration which has led him to this point. In a strange way, the fact that Guardiola has, for the past decade, had a quest and a flaw has made him more legendary than he would have been if he'd won five Champions Leagues. Mourinho was the man who planted the seed, the heel who exposed the Achilles' heel. They are far apart these days, but they are also inseparable, and will always be so, and somehow it would feel fitting if Pep's year of glory was José's too.

Kitching sinks Bolton to book trip to Wembley

Barnsley	**1**
Kitching 24	
Bolton Wanderers	**0**

Barnsley win 2-1 on aggregate

League One play-off second leg

Jason Mellor

The League One play-off final will be an all South Yorkshire affair after Barnsley moved to within a game of returning to the Sky Bet Championship.

After taking the lead before the break thanks to Liam Kitching's fifth goal of the season, Michael Duff's side held on to defeat Bolton and set up a play-off final against Sheffield Wednesday.

Duff's side have beaten Wednesday twice this season but the manager said: "That means absolutely nothing. They have been up there at the top all season and we know the challenge we face — they'll be the favourites. This group of players have been written off from the start but they've stuck together and we'll make sure we enjoy this win."

It took Barnsley until midway through the first half to carve out a clear opening but it was worth the wait. Kitching sent a towering header past goalkeeper James Trafford when the defender met a cross from the left from former Bolton midfielder Luca Connell.

Bolton's Conor Bradley had penalty appeals waved away by the referee and Barnsley nearly doubled their lead when a volley from midfielder Adam Phillips struck the bar. When Aaron Morley fired a free kick narrowly over from 15 yards after Barnsley goalkeeper Harry Isted handled a backpass, Bolton sensed it was not going to be their night.

Toney in line for new deal

Thomas Frank has said Ivan Toney will be offered a new contract by Brentford despite the striker's eight-month ban for breaching FA betting rules (Ian McCullough writes).

Toney, who has scored 20 Premier League goals this season and made his England debut in March, will miss the match away to Tottenham Hotspur today and is unable to play again until January 16, 2024.

Toney's contract expires in June 2025 and Frank said: "His future is with Brentford, there's no doubt about that. Ivan is in the bracket of players we want to keep. He is a top player."

Humphrey leaves BT Sport

Jake Humphrey is to be replaced as BT Sport's main football presenter after next month's Champions League final (Martyn Ziegler writes).

BT Sport is being rebranded as TNT Sport in the summer after a merger with Warner Bros Discovery and is planning a revamp of its presenters. It is understood that the broadcaster, which has Premier League and Champions League rights, wants Laura Woods to front its football coverage. Woods, the talkSPORT breakfast presenter, was one of the hosts of ITV's World Cup coverage in Qatar last year.

BILL EDGAR'S GUIDE TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE WEEKEND



4 Draws in past 41 top-flight games (all 2-2)

15 Man City home wins out of 15 in 2023

8 Chelsea points below top half of table

Tottenham Hotspur v Brentford
Today, 12.30pm
TV: Live, BT Sport 1. Radio: talkSPORT

Tottenham (probable; 4-4-2)
F Forster — E Royal, C Romero, C Lenglet, B Davies — P Porro, Y Bissouma, P-E Hojbjerg, Son Heung-min — Richarlison, H Kane
Injured H Lloris, R Bentancur, R Sessegnon **Doubt** E Dier, J Tanganga

Brentford (probable; 4-3-3)
D Raya — A Hickey, E Pinnock, B Mee, R Henry — J Dasilva, V Janelt, M Jensen — B Mbeumo, K Schade, Y Wissa
Injured P Jansson, C Norgaard, K Lewis-Potter **Suspended** I Toney

Referee J Gillett (matches officiated: 15) ■ 1 ■ 45

● Ivan Toney - banned for eight months - and Harry Kane have been key for these teams

Highest proportion of club's top-flight goals this season

Harry Kane, Tottenham	0.42	(27 out of 65)
Erling Haaland, Man City	0.39	(36 out of 92)
Ivan Toney, Brentford	0.37	(20 out of 54)
Marcus Rashford, Man Utd	0.31	(16 out of 51)
Ollie Watkins, Aston Villa	0.29	(14 out of 48)

Bournemouth v Manchester United
Today, 3pm
TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.25pm
Radio: talkSPORT 2

Bournemouth (4-2-3-1):
Neto — I Zabarnyi, C Mepham, L Kelly, M Viña — J Rothwell, J Lerma — D Ouattara, P Billing, R Christie — D Solanke
Injured M Tavernier, H Traoré, A Semenyo, R Fredericks, J Stanislas

Manchester United (4-2-3-1)
D de Gea — A Wan-Bissaka, R Varane, V Lindelof, L Shaw — Casemiro, C Eriksen — Antony, B Fernandes, A Garnacho — A Martial
Injured L Martínez, M Sabitzer, D van de Beek **Doubt** M Rashford, S McTominay

Referee C Kavanagh (12) ■ 0 ■ 43

● These clubs have provided the biggest differences in Premier League attendances

Combined top-flight home attendances

Bournemouth's whole season (if average maintained here) **195,947**

Manchester United in past three games **220,671**

Fulham v Crystal Palace
Today, 3pm
TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.25pm

Fulham (4-3-3)
B Leno — K Tete, T Adarabioyo, I Diop, A Robinson — H Reed, J Palhinha, T Cairney — H Wilson, A Mitrovic, Willian
Injured A Pereira, T Ream, L Kurzawa
Doubt D James

Crystal Palace (4-3-3)
S Johnstone — J Ward, J Andersen, M Guehi, T Mitchell — E Eze, C Doucouré, W Hughes — M Olise, O Edouard, J Ayew
Injured W Zaha, L Milivojevic, J Tomkins, N Ferguson **Out (personal reasons)** J Schlupp

Referee B Madley (24) ■ 3 ■ 87

● Crystal Palace are accustomed to mid-table

Most top-flight finishes in a row outside top five and bottom five

Tottenham	15	1990-91 to 2004-05
West Ham	12	1958-59 to 1969-70
West Brom	12	1960-61 to 1971-72
Wimbledon	12	1986-87 to 1997-98
Burnley	11	1948-49 to 1958-59
Middlesbrough	10	1998-99 to 2007-08
Blackburn	10	2001-02 to 2010-11
Crystal Palace	10	2013-14 to 2022-23

Wolverhampton Wanderers v Everton
Today, 3pm
TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.25pm
Radio: BBC 5 Live

Wolves (4-4-2)
D Bentley — N Semedo, C Dawson, M Kilman, Toti — M Nunes, M Lemina, R Neves, P Neto — D Costa, M Cunha
Injured S Kalajdzic, Chiquinho

Everton (4-2-3-1)
J Pickford — N Patterson, Y Mina, J Tarkowski, M Holgate — I Gueye, J Garner - A Iwobi, A Doucouré, D McNeil — D Calvert-Lewin
Injured S Coleman, B Godfrey, T Davies, A Townsend **Ineligible** C Coady
Doubt D Calvert-Lewin, V Mykolenko

Referee D Coote (19) ■ 3 ■ 66

● Wolves have recorded seven more home league wins without conceding than Arsenal

Top-flight home wins without conceding this season

Most		Fewest	
Wolves	9	Southampton	1
Man Utd	9	Arsenal	2
Liverpool	8	Crystal Palace	2
		Fulham	2
		Leeds	2
		Leicester	2

Nottingham Forest v Arsenal
Today, 5.30pm.
TV: Live, Sky Sports PL
Radio: BBC 5 Live

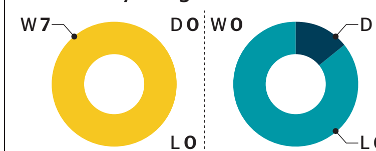
Nott'm Forest (3-4-2-1)
K Navas — J Worrall, Felipe, M Niakhaté — S Aurier, R Yates, O Mangala, R Lodi — M Gibbs-White, Danilo — T Awoniyi
Injured G Scarpa, D Henderson, N Williams, O Richards, S McKenna, J Colback, J Shelvey, C Wood
Doubt Danilo

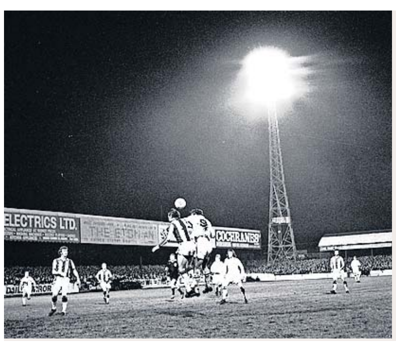
Arsenal (4-3-3)
A Ramsdale — B White, J Kiwior, Gabriel, K Tierney — M Odegaard, Jorginho, G Xhaka — B Saka, G Jesus, L Trossard
Injured G Martinelli, O Zinchenko, W Saliba, T Tomiyasu, M Elneny

Referee A Taylor (28) ■ 2 ■ 108

● Arsenal's recent visits to the Midlands have been fruitful, unlike their North West trips

Arsenal away in league





GROUNDS FROM THE PAST Sealand Road

Sealand Road was home to Chester City from its opening in 1906 until 1990 (the club were known as plain Chester until 1983). When the Football League official Charles Sutcliffe opened a new grandstand there on Good Friday in 1931 he was so impressed with the club that he recommended their acceptance in the League, which duly occurred that year. A record attendance of 20,378 watched the FA Cup third-round replay against Chelsea in January 1950, and a League Cup semi-final against Aston Villa was staged there in 1975. It hosted nine Welsh Cup final matches between 1933 and 1970, six of them featuring Chester themselves.

Sealand Road was sold in 1990 to pay off debts and became the site of a shopping centre; Chester moved in as tenants of Macclesfield Town for two years before returning home to play at the new Deva Stadium.



West Ham United v Leeds United
Kick-off: Tomorrow, 1.30pm
TV: Live, Sky Sports PL
Radio: BBC 5 Live

West Ham (4-2-3-1)
L Fabianski — B Johnson, N Aguerd, A Ogbonna, Emerson — F Downes, T Soucek — M Cornet, M Lanzini, P Fornals — D Ings
Injured G Scamacca

Leeds (4-3-3)
J Robles — L Ayling, R Kristensen, M Wöber, P Struijk — W McKennie, R Koch, A Forshaw — Rodrigo, P Bamford, J Harrison
Injured T Adams, M Roca, L Sinisterra, S Dallas **Doubt** L Cooper
Suspended J Firpo.

Referee P Bankes (20) ■ 0 ■ 90

● Leeds games have produced excitement at both ends

Most successive Premier League games where scored and conceded

Everton, up to Jan 2013	16
Aston Villa, up to Mar 2008	15
Liverpool, up to Aug 1997	13
Leeds, up to now	11
Most all time in top flight	
Arsenal, up to Feb 1931	31

Brighton & Hove Albion v Southampton
Tomorrow, 2pm
TV: Highlights, BBC1, 10.30pm

Brighton (4-2-3-1)
J Steele — J Veltman, L Dunk, L Colwill, P Estupiñán — P Gross, M Caicedo — J Enciso, A Mac Allister, K Mitoma — E Ferguson
Injured S March, A Webster, T Lamptey, J Moder, A Lallana, J Sarmiento

Southampton (4-2-3-1)
A McCarthy — K Walker-Peters, J Bednarek, Lyanco, A Maitland-Niles — J Ward-Prowse, R Lavia — T Walcott, C Alcaraz, S Armstrong — C Adams
Injured A Bella-Kotchap, M Salisu, R Perraud, J Larios, T Livramento
Doubt C Adams

Referee P Tierney (29) ■ 2 ■ 107

● Roberto De Zerbi has been an explosive presence on the touchline

Manager cards in top flight this season

Reds
2: Roberto De Zerbi, Brighton
1: Antonio Conte, Tottenham; Cristian Stellini, Tottenham; Jesse Marsch, Leeds; Jürgen Klopp, Liverpool; Thomas Tuchel, Chelsea

Yellows
4: Roberto De Zerbi, Brighton
3: Antonio Conte, Tottenham; Marco Silva, Fulham; Patrick Vieira, Crystal Palace
2: Jesse Marsch, Leeds
1: Ten managers

Manchester City v Chelsea
Tomorrow, 4pm
TV: Live, Sky Sports PL
Radio: BBC 5 Live

Man City (4-2-3-1)
Ederson — K Walker, M Akanji, R Dias, A Laporte — Rodri, I Gundogan — R Mahrez, K De Bruyne, P Foden — E Haaland **Doubt** N Aké

Chelsea (4-3-3)
E Mendy — C Azpilicueta, T Chalobah, T Silva, L Hall — C Gallagher, E Fernández, M Kovacic — N Madueke, K Havertz, R Sterling
Injured R James, B Chilwell, M Cucurella, B Badiashile, N Kanté, M Mount, A Broja
Doubt K Koulibaly

Referee M Oliver (29) ■ 1 ■ 85

● Manchester City have one lost home game here to break their own home scoring record

Most home goals by a top-flight club in all competitions

Man City, 2018-19	100
Man City 2022-23	99
Man City, 2013-14	96
Aston Villa, 1930-31	87
Liverpool, 1985-86	87

Newcastle United v Leicester City
Monday, 8pm
TV: Live, Sky Sports PL
Radio: talkSPORT

Newcastle (4-3-3)
N Pope — K Trippier, F Schär, S Botman, D Burn — Joelinton, B Guimarães, E Anderson — M Almirón, C Wilson, A Isak
Injured J Willock, J Lascelles, E Krafth, M Ritchie **Doubt** B Guimaraes, S Longstaff, J Murphy, Joelinton, K Trippier

Leicester (4-2-3-1)
D Iversen — R Pereira, W Faes, J Evans, T Castagne — W Ndidi, B Soumaré — J Maddison, Y Tielemans, H Barnes — J Vardy
Injured C Soyuncu, J Justin, R Bertrand, J Vestergaard, D Ward **Doubt** K Iheanacho, K Dewsbury-Hall

Referee A Marriner (11) ■ 2 ■ 44

● Newcastle have had Bruno Guimaraes, Allan Saint-Maximin and Joelinton cautioned for simulation this season

Most bookings for diving this season in Premier League

Newcastle	3
Arsenal	2
Bournemouth	2
Chelsea	2
Man City	2
Southampton	2

HOW IT STANDS

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Man City	35	27	4	4	61	85
2	Arsenal	36	25	6	5	41	81
3	Newcastle	36	19	12	5	35	69
4	Manchester Utd	35	20	6	9	10	66
5	Liverpool	36	19	8	9	28	65
6	Brighton	35	17	7	11	18	58
7	Tottenham	36	17	6	13	6	57
8	Aston Villa	36	17	6	13	4	57
9	Brentford	36	13	14	9	9	53
10	Fulham	36	15	6	15	3	51
11	Chelsea	35	11	10	14	-5	43
12	Crystal Palace	36	11	10	15	-9	43
13	Wolves	36	11	7	18	-22	40
14	Bournemouth	36	11	6	19	-32	39
15	West Ham	36	10	7	19	-14	37
16	Nott'ham Forest	36	8	10	18	-31	34
17	Everton	36	7	11	18	-24	32
18	Leeds	36	7	10	19	-25	31
19	Leicester	36	8	6	22	-18	30
20	Southampton (R)	36	6	6	24	-35	24

TOP SCORERS

E Haaland (Man City)	36
H Kane (Tottenham)	27
I Toney (Brentford)	20
M Salah (Liverpool)	19

TOP ASSISTS

K De Bruyne (Man City)	16
B Saka (Arsenal)	11
R Mahrez (Man City), M Olise (C Palace), M Salah (L'pool), L Trossard (Arsenal)	10

A brief history of Lincoln City

Formed in 1884, they moved to their present Sincil Bank ground 11 years later. Lincoln have never reached the top flight; their 34 second-tier seasons all came before 1962.



Of Lincoln's five demotions from the League, they returned only one year later four times, after dropping out in 1908, 1911, 1920 and 1987 — the last of those was the first season of automatic relegation from the League.

Lincoln played in two matches in five years that were halted by tragedy: one was abandoned because of the Bradford stadium fire in 1985, the other due to the collapse and death of the York City player David Longhurst in 1990.

471

The centre back Grant Brown, right, made a record 471 Lincoln appearances from 1989 to 2002. Andy Graver scored a club-high 150 goals in two spells between 1950 and 1961.



PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH IN FOCUS

Liverpool v Aston Villa

Kick-off: Today, 3pm

TV: Highlights, BBC One, 10.25pm

Referee: J Brooks

Liverpool (4-3-3) Possible line-ups



Aston Villa (4-4-2)

Liverpool
Injured: D Núñez, Thiago, N Keita, S Bajcetic

Aston Villa
Injured: P Coutinho
Doubt: C Chambers

Milner's Andield swansong

James Milner is poised to make his final Anfield appearance for Liverpool — probably from the bench — after the club announced the 37-year-old would leave this summer. His 617 top-flight appearances is the 12th highest of all time but he is 188 clear of the next highest in the list among present Premier League players, his fellow Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson.

Most Premier League games by present players

Player	Games
James Milner (present club Liverpool)	617
Jordan Henderson (Liverpool)	429
Ashley Young (Aston Villa)	421
David De Gea (Man Utd)	412
Theo Walcott (Southampton)	395
Hugo Lloris (Tottenham)	361
Kyle Walker (Man City)	360

Last season Liverpool were unbeaten in the league after the turn of the year, winning 16 matches and drawing three, yet they failed, narrowly, to secure the title. This season they are finishing strongly again, having won seven league matches in a row in their pursuit of a Champions League place, but there is a fair chance they will just miss their target again. On a weekend where Manchester City may become champions once more, this fixture is a reminder of when Liverpool clinched successive titles by beating Aston Villa at Anfield in May 1979 and again in May 1980. Liverpool have lost only one of their past 41 home league games — having lost six in a row before then — but a win for Villa here would boost their ambitions of a first European campaign for 13 years. They will hope Ollie Watkins can end a run of five games without a goal.



Ashley Young
(Aston Villa)

Emery puts off opponents

Unai Emery's Villa are proving adept at setting offside traps. In last week's win over Tottenham their opponents managed only five shots, their fewest in a league match this season, while being caught offside nine times, four more than in any other league fixture this term

Most offsides per top-flight game for opposition since Unai Emery joined Villa in November:

Team	Offsides
Aston Villa	4.0
Liverpool	2.8
Leeds	2.5
Leicester	2.1
Arsenal	2.1

Reds let chances slip

Liverpool have struggled to convert good scoring opportunities this season

Liverpool's "big-chance" conversion rate in league:*

Last season

Scored 73 | Missed 59 | **55.3%**

This season

Scored 42 | Missed 76 | **35.6%**

*In Opta's judgment

Classic meeting

Sept 27, 1986, top flight
Liverpool 3, Aston Villa 3

Billy McNeill marked his first league game in charge of Aston Villa, the division's bottom club, by taking a point away to the team who had won the League and FA Cup double in the previous season. Liverpool had beaten Fulham 10-0 in the League in midweek but here they fell behind three times. Steve Hodge, fresh from acquiring the shirt of his Argentine opponent Diego Maradona at that summer's World Cup, volleyed home Villa's fourth-minute opener but John Wark equalised. Garry Thompson made it 2-1 after Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar had dropped the ball but Wark levelled again via a penalty after a Paul Elliott handball just before half time. A foul by Alan Hansen allowed Allan Evans to hit Villa's third from the spot, only for Steve McMahon, once of Villa, to secure a draw with a long-range shot

Graham Taylor is the fourth-youngest manager to have been in charge throughout a promotion season: he was 31 when the club won the Fourth Division title in 1976.



2016-17

In 2016-17 Lincoln ended a six-year stint out of the Football League, left, and became the first non-League side to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals since the League expanded to four divisions in 1921.

The club's second manager (1900-07) was the father of their fifth (1921-24) — both named David Calderhead. From 2016 to 2019 Danny Cowley, right, led them, assisted by his brother, Nicky.



WHEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH GOLF

Brendan Lawlor was born with a bone-growth issue but still became the world No1 disability golfer



I used to play Gaelic football but as I got older everyone was outgrowing me and I found it hard to compete. I kept getting injuries and then I started playing pitch and putt. I reached my potential at that, winning all-Ireland, and Leinster competitions, and joined a club. I really did fall in love with golf. Addicted, I just wanted to get better.

I was born with a bone-growth disorder called Ellis–van Creveld syndrome, but I found I could beat able-bodied players and that made me forget I had any sort of disability. When I started I made a lot of progress.

I recently highlighted some of the abuse I get. It's stuff I had to live with all my life, whether I went to a shopping centre and people looked at me or if I went into a golf club and people thought it would be an easy match. It's something that never annoyed me. I suppose when something happens to you on a daily basis, you tend to accept it and deal with it, but the lovely thing about golf is when you're off scratch and you're against someone off scratch, it doesn't matter if



you're 5ft, 6ft or 7ft tall. People underestimated me as I'm smaller than the rest, but it worked in my favour. It was definitely an advantage.

I switched to disability golf after my aunt found out about the European Disabled Golf Association. She sent details to my mam, but she didn't really want to tell me about it because she felt it would be categorising me, which is something they'd never done. But I went to my first event in 2017 and got inspired by the people I saw there.

I became the world No1 and last week won the first G4D Open at Woburn. It was a big moment for me and for disability golf. It is on the rise.

I'm lucky to have Niall Horan's Modest Management team behind me. Niall (once of One Direction) and the team don't treat me differently to anyone else. Now I want to get more people on to the GD4 Tour and help more guys to make a career from golf.

Interview by Rick Broadbent

Durable, eccentric and a genuine

Steve James

The writing had been on the wall. It was before the first match of Wales' Six Nations campaign this year, against Ireland, that the returning head coach Warren Gatland made a telling comment about the legendary lock Alun Wyn Jones.

"I have always been a great admirer of his but we've got to go through the process of some transition," Gatland said. "I would love him to be able to make the decision when he calls time, but he is well aware of the needs of this team and we just keep talking about how many games he plays, who starts, and when he decides to make a decision to finish with international rugby."

He has now made that decision of his own accord and it is the right time to do so. Jones, never one for fanfare, has taken his leave quietly, announcing his retirement on social media on Friday not long after his Ospreys, Wales and British & Irish Lions colleague, flanker Justin Tipuric, had done the same.

Two greats gone in one Friday afternoon leaves two gaping holes in Welsh rugby, but, however sad — and as a former professional sportsman myself I can chime with the notion of sportspeople dying twice, once upon retirement and again at the end of their natural life — this is in the best interests of the national team. Both were done. These are unselfish decisions.

Jones is 37, having amassed a record 158 caps for Wales and 12 for the Lions. He was hanging on at the end of the season. One's body can only endure so much. Father Time waits for no man, not even the "superhuman" Jones, as Dragons head coach Dai Flanagan called him at the end of the season, and now Gatland can plan for the World Cup without having to agonise over whether to select Jones and Tipuric with players such as Will Rowlands and Tommy Reffell snapping at their heels.

The year 2006 is an awful long time ago and it is easy to forget that Jones' international career began that year at blindside flanker — his first three caps were in that position, twice away in Argentina and once against the Pacific Islanders in Cardiff — but soon he was establishing himself as a lock of rare competitiveness, one with an unrelenting work ethic, always the first to arrive, always the last to leave.

"He was an incredible trainer," Gatland wrote about him in his autobiography. "During a session, he does not simply run from one station to the next. He sprints, flat out, each and every time. That commitment allows me to say to the other players, 'There's your challenge. Get there ahead of him.'"

In the early days Jones' discipline could be sketchy. That was why Gatland preferred Sam Warburton as a young World Cup captain in 2011, with Jones' yellow card against England in 2010 still fresh in the mind. Jones tripped Dylan Hartley and, while he was off the pitch, England scored 17 points to tilt the match their way.

Gatland called him out afterwards. "A moment of stupidity cost us the game," he said.

As Gatland also wrote of Jones in his autobiography: "At first, he was something of a handful. Unusually feisty even in rugby terms, he was more than capable of starting a fight on the practice field. Sometimes, he could be a little negative. Sometimes, there was the hint of a bully about him."

But he matured and once Warburton — who was often preferred to the more free-running, skilful Tipuric at openside because of his greater physicality — retired, Jones was the obvious replacement as captain (Gatland had made him Lions captain for the final Test in Australia in 2013 when Warburton was injured).

The grand slam that Wales won in 2019 showcased Jones at his very finest. He was an irresistible force in that Six Nations, a runaway winner as player of the championship and a leader so revered by both players and public that the remarks of the centre Jonathan Davies live on television after the final match against Ireland — "Thank you, mate. I love you" — summed up a nation's feelings towards the man.

Jones had twisted a knee early in that game (remember how he miraculously returned for the 2021 Lions tour after a shoulder injury) but he carried on making tackle after tackle, hitting ruck after ruck and dragging his colleagues over the line.

Jones was mostly rather prickly with the press, although he has a softer side that many do not see. But that day in Cardiff, with the Irish having foolishly decided to keep the stadium roof open in the pouring rain, everyone saw that side of him.

As the teams lined up for the anthems, Jones noticed that the mascot standing in front of him was getting cold, so he took off his tracksuit top and draped it around the young man. It was as classy as the wet-weather masterclass from Wales that followed.

Sean Holley, Jones' former coach at the Ospreys, once told me a nice story about Jones' loyalty. "On my 40th birthday I decided to miss my first ever Ospreys game," he said. "I had been the only person present at every game since the first one.

"Wales were playing Australia in Cardiff that day and we had a lot of people in the Wales squad, including Alun Wyn. The Ospreys were in Newcastle playing in an LV= Cup game. I had a party all day long in the house and I said to the players that I understood if they could not make it. Understandably nobody turned up from the playing staff. I had a great day and then at about 11 o'clock at night the door went and there was Alun Wyn, with a black eye, his girlfriend [now his wife] on his arm and a bottle of champagne.

"He said: 'Hollster, I could not let your 40th go without calling in and saying happy birthday.' He came in for half an hour. That sums him up. That is the sort of guy he is."

Jones could be a little eccentric. The Lions players on that 2013 tour to Australia were somewhat perplexed at one scrummaging session early in the tour when Jones was talking to himself. "I can go all day, you Big Red Machine," he was saying.

And he was indeed a big red machine. His durability was extraordinary. The statistic that the statistician Russ Petty produced upon his retirement — that Jones has played in 20 per cent of Wales' Tests between 1881 and now — says it all. There was longevity, and then there was Alun Wyn, which for those wondering are his Christian names. His surname is Jones, not Wyn Jones.

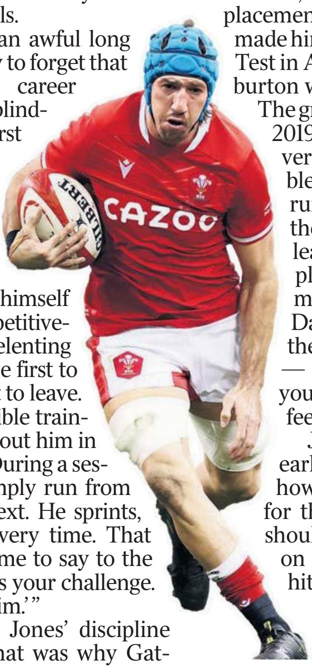
A fifth World Cup was just beyond him, but what a career. There was no fairytale ending but he knew how to take it all in along the way.

On that rainy day in Cardiff in 2019, a couple of hours after the presentations, celebrations and interviews had been done, and after having seen his family, Jones walked down the stadium tunnel and took up a seat by the pitch, alone with his thoughts as the place was cleared up around him. He has that treasured memory along with a thousand others.

After that match the other Jonathan Davies, the former fly half, hailed Jones as the greatest Wales player of all time. It was a bold claim — Davies was not bad himself — but Jones is in the mix. He was that good and that successful.

Most international caps

Player	Caps
Alun Wyn Jones (Wales)	170 (12 for Lions)
Richie McCaw (New Zealand)	148
Sam Whitelock (New Zealand)	143
Sergio Parisse (Italy)	142
Brian O'Driscoll (Ireland)	141 (8 for Lions)
George Gregan (Australia)	139
Gethin Jenkins (Wales)	134 (5 for Lions)
Kevin Mealamu (New Zealand)	132
Ronan O'Gara (Ireland)	130 (2 for Lions)
Stephen Moore (Australia)	129
Florin Vlaicu (Romania)	129



Tipuric won 93 Wales caps and one with the Lions



Two of Jones' career highlights came when Wales clinched the Six Nations grand

Pride flag to be flown when Folau plays

Will Kelleher
Deputy Rugby Correspondent

The RFU will fly a version of the Pride flag at Twickenham next Sunday when Israel Folau is due to play there for a World XV.

The Australian cross-code star, who shared a social media post that claimed "hell awaits" homosexuals, will face the Barbarians in an exhibition match next weekend, it has been confirmed. Folau, 34, was at the centre of a protracted contractual battle with Rugby Australia in 2019 after he posted on Instagram quoting a bible verse which read: "Warning. Drunks, Homosexuals, Adulterers, Liars, Fornicators, Thieves, Atheists, Idolators. Hell awaits you. Repent! Only Jesus Saves."

Folau has been playing his rugby in Japan for Urayasu D-Rocks since 2021 but, as he returns to the spotlight and the international stage, the RFU plans to print a supportive message for the LGBTQ+ community in the match-day programme for the Barbarians game and will fly the "Pride Progress" flag above Twickenham.

Folau was widely condemned for his post and had his Australia and Waratahs contract terminated. After a legal case, at the start of which he claimed £7.5 million for wrongful dismissal, Folau and Rugby Australia settled out of court.

Welsh great



20

Percentage of the internationals played by Wales since their first in 1881 that Wyn Jones has taken part in

slam in 2019, main, and when he led the Lions to victory over Australia in 2013

O'Gara excited to be leading invading army into 'lion's den'

Alex Lowe
Rugby Correspondent

Six days after Munster recorded a famous victory over Leinster, Ronan O'Gara strode on to the lush turf of the Aviva Stadium in a symbolic red hoodie. The badge on his left breast was of La Rochelle, but the colour was that of Munster. "I am saving the green one for tomorrow," O'Gara said. The green of Ireland? At the home of Ireland and on the day his monstrous La Rochelle side tackle Leinster for the Heineken Champions Cup? O'Gara is back in Dublin, stirring the pot and planning a victorious homecoming.

Today's final will be the third instalment of an epic trilogy between Leinster and La Rochelle. O'Gara led his side to victory on French soil in the 2021 semi-finals and in last year's final; on each occasion denying Leinster the fifth star they crave for their jerseys. This time the showdown is on Leinster turf and the Aviva will be a sea of blue.

"There is a certain delight, an enjoyment factor when you go into the lion's den," O'Gara said. "Where else do you want to be? We get a chance to play for each other in the final of the European Cup, in the home of Leinster.

"We will either grow or shrink. What I see from my boys is that they love it. This is to be attacked not feared. We have ambitions to do something special in these players' lives. This could be another big day for the club. If we play like we did against Exeter [in this year's semi-finals] then we are a tough team.

"It's a home game for me too. I have such great memories in this stadium, the minute I walked through I was like, 'I can't believe I'm here.'"

O'Gara played 45 times for Ireland here. In 2006, at the old Lansdowne Road, he vaulted the hoardings and jumped into the crowd to celebrate with the travelling red army after Munster had defeated Leinster in another memorable Champions Cup semi-final.

O'Gara will always be a man of Munster but he is back in Dublin as a coach of the world, having spent four years with Racing 92 and won two Super Rugby titles with the Crusaders in New Zealand before landing at La Rochelle.

All of those experiences have fed into the culture of excellence that O'Gara has built in the port town on the Bay of Biscay, where every Top 14 game is sold out and is a riot of colour and noise.

Where O'Gara the player would have been nervous and serious, levity not his bag in the build-up to a big game, he has embraced as a coach the value of allowing his players to do it their way. The training session on yesterday was full of laughs and jokes. "If I hadn't been to the Crusaders, that would have made me worried," he said.

Nevertheless, the intensity and drive that characterised O'Gara's playing career remains and it has powered the rise of La Rochelle to European champions and a third consecutive Champions Cup final appearance.

Dillyn Leyds, the La Rochelle wing, provided some insight with a story from a few years ago, when the players had gathered for the birthday party of a team-mate's son. The Champions Cup semi-final between Racing 92 and Saracens was on television and the players were marvelling at the quality of the rugby.

"Rog [O'Gara] just stood there and said, 'Why can't that be us?'," Leyds said. "I was thinking to myself, 'Relax, man, we're at a one-year-old's birthday party.' Only later did it get me thinking that this guy wants to do big things at the club.

"Everyone in the rugby world knows that Rog is the kind of guy who always wants to win. Every little thing, every small detail. That's what he has brought to this club.

"The direction the club is going now, you can see the kind of players we are attracting [such as Jack Nowell, who will join from Exeter Chiefs next season]. He has obviously done a hell of a lot for the club. He has a long-term deal to stay and hopefully put the club in a position where we can continue to win trophies."

That deal was signed after O'Gara had been contacted by the RFU about the England job, for which he expressed some interest, although it was clear that Steve Borthwick was always the first pick at Twickenham. It is likely to be a choice between O'Gara and Paul O'Connell to succeed Andy Farrell as Ireland coach.

Champions Cup Final

Leinster v La Rochelle
Aviva Stadium, Dublin
Today, 4.45pm
TV: BT Sport 2

The anchor points of La Rochelle's game remain the same, a year on from their victory over Leinster in Marseille. They are a shudderingly powerful team, with Jonathan Danty, Uini Atonio, Will Skelton and Grégory Alldritt operating in concert, and the extraordinary Levani Botia capable of wreaking havoc at the breakdown. The Fijian's battle with Josh van der Flier will be one of the key contests.

"You have to evolve or you die — 'get better or get beaten' is the Crusaders' language," O'Gara said. La Rochelle have added Antoine Hastoy, the former Pau fly half with a couple of France caps. Tawera Kerr-Barlow, the former New Zealand scrum half, starts, having missed last year's final.

Leinster have made two changes from the starting XV from last year, with Dan Sheehan promoted into the No 2 jersey and Ross Byrne at fly half in the absence of Johnny Sexton.

"It doesn't get any better or bigger in the home of Leinster. It is a daunting task. Where else do you want to be?" O'Gara said.

"Leinster are going to have purple patches for sure. How we manage those pressure moments will decide how the game goes. Over the 80 minutes there should be enough of an opportunity for us to play rugby, to impose our game.

"That's what we're banking on, as opposed to taking on the home crowd full on. We are very grateful to have the opportunity. Gloucester could have put us out in the last 16. We have learnt from that. You don't get two chances in a season. Now it's our time to strike."



O'Gara wore a red hoodie, the colour of Munster, as he spoke to the media

Glasgow put to bed before darkness falls

Glasgow Warriors	**19**
Toulon	**43**

European Challenge Cup final
Mark Palmer

The Challenge Cup has been described as the ugly sister of the European club competitions, but for Glasgow this final was them finally arriving at the ball after more than a quarter of a century of trying.

A pity, then, that their hopes of a maiden continental triumph were put to bed before it even got dark in Dublin. Never mind midnight, Glasgow were all done by half-time here as a combination of their errors and Toulon's excellence turned what many had expected to be a close affair into a virtual no-contest. The three-times European champions were too fast, too powerful and too good for Franco Smith's men, who helped them on their way with a litany of defensive errors and a horror show on the touchlines, where the decision to bench George Turner and Richie Gray, respectively Scotland's first-choice hooker and lineout forward, was made to look ridiculous.

Glasgow had plenty of chances, but could not make anything stick until Kyle Steyn, their ever-willing captain, finished brilliantly midway through the second half after Rory Darge and Ali Price, two replacements, combined neatly to attack the short side in the wake of a lineout. Even then, Toulon were straight back at them, Jiuta Wainiqolo cutting in off the right wing to take an inside ball from Cheslin Kolbe and slaloming his way through the remaining defenders to score Toulon's fourth try. The French had suffered an early blow when Dan Biggar, their fly half, was forced off after barely four minutes when appearing to pick up a head injury in a collision with Jamie Bhatti.

But from the next play, Baptiste Serin speared a path between JP du Preez and Matt Fagerson with a stabbed kick through from the base of a ruck. Serin followed up the grubber himself to slide across. He spun a pass out to Sergio Parisse to score the second try and the 28-year-old dived over himself for the third. Imprecision undermined Glasgow, the Scots coughing up the ball when they got close to the line, leaving them 21-0 down at the break.

Steyn got the first of two tries and Sebastián Cancelliere also went over for Glasgow, but tries from Wainiqolo, Waisea Nayacalevu and Ihaia West kept Toulon well ahead.

Rose displays grit as 'brutal' course takes a heavy toll



ADAM CAIRNS/USA TODAY/REUTERS

Rose battled in the wind and rain for a level-par 70 while his fellow Englishman Tarren, inset, was in the top five after 11 holes

Rick Broadbent
Rochester, New York

They were hanging on for dear life at the US PGA Championship yesterday. "Brutal," Sepp Straka said. "The fairways are repellent," Phil Mickelson added, and you could take that both ways. Just when players thought they were on for a good round they saw hours of building crash down around them. It was like golf Jenga at Oak Hill.

Justin Rose was one of those who survived. Only last year, the 2013 US Open champion said "golf is becoming a young man's game" and that he was up against the clock. The statistics back up that assessment and if we get an eighth consecutive major winner in his twenties tomorrow, it will be the longest such streak of the modern era. Yet the 42-year-old Englishman played himself into this young man's game with grit and nous. When he finished his round of level-par 70, he was one of only 11 players under par.

"I thought the set-up was remarkably difficult considering the strength of the wind," he said. "On holes like the 17th and 4th, I don't even know how you hit the ball in the fairway."

Baked by a changeable wind, Oak Hill was so exacting that you could imagine the collective sigh of those in the clubhouse when they saw the world No 2 Scottie Scheffler, a late starter, merrily open up his second round with back-to-back birdies to take the outright lead. Corey Conners, the Canadian irons master, overhauled him to get to six under without dropping a shot, with Scheffler and Viktor Hovland on his heels, but Rose was home and dry in the clubhouse at one under as the rain came. One of those taking advantage of the softer targets was England's Callum Tarren, who climbed to two under and a place in the top five after 11 holes.

Rose's return to a major mix was welcome after some tough times. Last year he fell out of the world's top 50 for the first time in a decade and then pulled out of the Open at St Andrews with a bad back. The omens seemed bleak, but he kept toiling away and had his first PGA Tour win for four years at Pebble Beach in March.

Starting on the back nine, Rose began with two birdies in three holes and then rolled in a 20-foot putt on the 16th. That took him into the joint lead, despite a festering inability to find a fairway. When he finally did so on the 6th hole, his 15th of the day, he was so surprised that he dropped a shot. "I feel like making a bogey or two around here is no big deal," he said.

This was one of those days when standing still was as good as progress. The hazards even extended to the practice green where ducklings stopped play and an official had to take them away in a box. For the players, getting their ducks in a row proved far harder.

Dustin Johnson was only one off the lead at the start but he had been relying on clutch putting. That was unsustainable and four bogeys and a double leaves him with a lot to do. Bryson DeChambeau's admission that his drives could go anywhere proved prescient and a double bogey on the 6th reined in his enthusiasm.

The 6th was particularly punishing for many. Why was it so hard? "Well, it's 500 yards into the wind, with water up the right and by the green," Mickelson, who found the water there and finished at five over, said. Rory McIlroy also found the edge of the creek as he struggled to make ground on the leaders.

It is likely that a young buck will win tomorrow. The ebullience of youth was never more evident than when Tom Kim fell into a mudbath during his first round and then doubled over in laughter at finding the video clip had gone viral. Kim turned up for his second round in a pristine white outfit which did not seem the smartest move. It is best to learn quickly around Oak Hill. Cameron Young will certainly regret the costliest of schoolboy mistakes when he forgot to return his marker to its original spot after moving it a club-head length away because it was on Tommy Fleetwood's line. The two-stroke penalty left him in danger of missing the cut.

With the wind strong around this long, undulating course, those who made inroads found some of them were cul-de-sacs. Eric Cole, the fifth alternate from the US, had led overnight, but by the time he was halfway through his second round he was five off the top.

Michael Block, 46, was another unheralded figure enjoying his time at the top. One of the PGA Championship's quirks is the smattering of club pros in the field and the man who gives lessons for £90 at home in California got himself into second place. Then he hit the sort of shank that every club hacker knows all too well. His own description of it was entertaining. "I love hitting the baby draw with my eight-iron," he said. "I've done it well all week and all of a sudden — we've all been there — I look up and I'm like, 'Oh my goodness'. That ball hit a tree, almost killed somebody, and then goes off in the deep rough. I was fortunate to make double bogey." That shot went 58 yards but Block ended at even par and said he is here to win. Like it says on his golf balls, "Why not?"

US PGA third round

Oak Hill, New York

TV: Sky Sports Golf, 2pm. Sky Sports Main Event, 8pm

Early clubhouse leaders

139 T Pendrith (Can) 70, 69; J Rose (Eng) 69, 70.

140 M Block (US) 70, 70; K Mitchell (US) 69, 71; S Straka (Aut) 69, 71.

141 P Cantlay (US) 74, 67; E Cole (US) 67, 74; C Davis (Aus) 71, 70; D Johnson (US) 67, 74; M Pereira (Chile) 72, 69.

142 S Jaeger (Ger) 72, 70; V Perez (Fr) 70, 72; A Scott (Aus) 68, 74.

143 H Buckley (US) 69, 74; T Fleetwood (Eng) 72, 71; A Hadwin (Can) 70, 73; M Homa (US) 71, 72; S J Kim (US) 75, 68; H Matsuyama (Japan) 72, 71; P Reed (US) 72, 71; M Wallace (Eng) 73, 70.

Selected others

144 X Schaufffele (US) 72, 72

145 T Finau (US) 72, 73; T Hatton (Eng) 77, 68

TIMES ONLINE

Read Rick Broadbent's final report from the second round of the US PGA at **thetimes.co.uk/sport**

Legendary NFL running back Brown dies aged 87

American football Jim Brown, a Hall of Fame running back who retired at the peak of his career to become an actor and a prominent civil rights advocate during the 1960s, has died. He was 87.

A spokeswoman for Brown's family said he died peacefully in his Los Angeles home on Thursday night with his wife, Monique, by his side.

"To the world, he was an activist, actor and football star," Monique Brown wrote in an Instagram post. "To our family, he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Our hearts are broken."

One of the sport's first superstars, Brown was the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1965 and shattered the league's record books in a career spanning 1957-65. Brown led the Cleveland Browns to their last NFL title in 1964 before retiring a year later. He appeared in more than 30 films, including *Any Given Sunday*.

Halep remains defiant after being charged with second doping offence

Tennis Simona Halep, the former world No 1, has been charged with a further breach of anti-doping rules, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) confirmed yesterday.

The Romanian, 31, has been provisionally suspended since October 2022 for testing positive for the banned substance roxadustat — an anti-anaemia drug which stimulates the production of red blood cells — at the US Open in August last year. Yesterday, the ITIA said that the two-times grand slam champion has been further charged "relating to irregularities in her athlete biological passport (ABP)".

It added that the "charge is separate and in addition to the existing roxadustat charge from August 2022 which triggered Ms Halep's original provisional suspension".

The ABP programme allows anti-doping organisations to monitor various blood parameters and identify potential doping violations.

Halep, 31, said after her positive test in October that she would "fight until the end" to clear her name. A doping hearing is scheduled for May 28.

"Knowingly, I have not taken any banned substance," she said last month. "I am a big supporter of clean sports and have always been against doping. I had no clue at the beginning where this substance came from."

Taylor shows why she is cherished

Boxing
Michael Foley



DAVE THOMPSON/MATCHROOM

Taylor shares the ring with 11-year-old Carly Burke during a public workout in Dublin before her homecoming fight

On Wednesday afternoon, outside a shopping centre in a monied suburb of south Dublin, Katie Taylor was performing the wonders that come easiest to her.

A huge crowd of beaming faces thronged around the ring as she eased her way through a public workout before her world-title fight with Chantelle Cameron, moving easily through her routines like she was gliding on ice. Carly Burke, 11, was standing outside the barriers waving at Taylor when the boxer spotted her. Next thing, Burke was in the ring.

"I asked her, 'Do you box?'" Taylor said afterwards. "To do something like that, I think it made her day. I am really happy to do things like that."

It was a moment that captured why Taylor has been cherished as Ireland's most beloved sportsperson over the past decade. The crowd doesn't come to listen to wisecracks. They know Taylor isn't here to throw on a show. They come to celebrate something pure and uncluttered by the detritus of professional sport: this absolute devotion to the mastery of her chosen craft that has changed the landscape for female boxers beyond recognition in the past ten years.

The mood this week evoked memories of another public workout more than a year ago, in the foyer of Madison Square Garden before her extraordinary fight with Amanda Serrano. The New York crowd packed around the ring among the television cameras and photographers, and also lined the balconies above. The tough old-timers at the famous venue said they had never seen anything like it before. They would repeat that line at different times as that weekend unfolded.

The emotional wave that made her fight with Serrano one of the greatest duels hosted at Madison Square Garden carried Taylor back home to her dream fight at Croke Park in front of 82,500 people, gathered to praise her name and celebrate her legacy. Instead, issues around costs between Matchroom and the Gaelic Athletic Association, the proprietors of Croke Park, alongside concerns over the actual potential for a full house, rerouted her to the 3Arena in Dublin's docklands on Saturday night in front of about 9,000 people. But this business obliges her to make something useable from those lemons.

"This is a huge occasion for me and I'm just delighted to actually get a chance to fight at home," she said recently. "A few years ago I didn't think this was going to happen."

For that much alone, everyone is thankful. It was February 2016 when Taylor last fought on a bill in Ireland, in front of 1,500 people in Tralee, County Kerry. Two weeks had passed since a weigh-in at a professional boxing event at the Regency Hotel in Dublin had been shattered by a gangland shooting spree targeting the crime boss Daniel Kinahan, which killed one of his associates, David Byrne, and accelerated a feud that has claimed 18 lives.

When placed in that context, it might be easier to see Taylor's return to Ireland as the closing of a terrible chapter in Irish sport, but the impact of the feud and MTK Global, the now-defunct promotions company co-founded by Kinahan that managed to burrow its way to the centre of global boxing, will take longer to dissipate.

Cameron herself is a former MTK fighter. Her coach, Jamie Moore, was shot in the leg outside Kinahan's villa in 2014 in a case of mistaken identity. When Cameron visited Ireland in March to promote the fight, Moore, who has no criminal links, refused to address questions related to his past support for Kinahan and his role as trainer of many MTK fighters. "We're not here to talk about that," he said. "We're here to talk about the fight."

But those two elements remain impossible to separate. The effect of the Regency attack on professional boxing in Ireland was staggering and restoring global faith in the viability of Ireland as a big-time venue will require multiple nights like this.

For now, being able to grant Taylor one of her last remaining wishes is a small gesture compared with what she has done for her sport. In return, she has continued to seek out the hardest imaginable fights at a time when the questions harden over her capacity to maintain her own stratospheric standards.

Despite the euphoria last year after Taylor was pummelled to the precipice by Serrano and survived, everyone wondered how much was left in the tank — she turns 37 in July. Defeating Cameron would make Taylor an undisputed world champion at two different weights (lightweight and super-lightweight) but also obliges her to shift up a few kilograms.

For everything she has done and will for ever represent, Taylor deserves this night back home. Victory, though, will have to be earned.

Tale of the tape

KATIE TAYLOR	CHANTELLE CAMERON
Nationality: Irish	**Nationality:** British
22-0 (6 KOs)	17-0 (8 KOs)
Age: 36	**Age:** 32
Height: 5' 5"	**Height:** 5' 8"
Reach: 66"	**Reach:** 69"
Weight: 139.7lbs	**Weight:** 139.7lbs

Katie Taylor v Chantelle Cameron

Super-lightweight world-title fight
Tonight, 10pm
TV DAZN

THE TAILENDER

Patrick Kidd



Crawley fails to 'set the tone'

Mike Atherton was right, of course. Who do Australia least want to bat at No7 for England in the Ashes? Jonny Bairstow. But who do they most relish attacking with the new ball? To judge by the frequent barbs sent to me by Nixon Gill, a reader in Sydney, it's Zak Crawley.

His last dismissal for Kent, on Thursday, was for 19, the seventh time in ten innings that he has failed to reach 20 this season.

His Test longevity is remarkable: 33 matches at 27.6. Chris Woakes, who could bat at No8 in the Ashes, has a better average than England's opener, who was only Kent's ninth-best batsman in 2022. If he were an eco-warrior, his occupation would be over before the glue had dried. We all have favourites who looked lovely but didn't crack it in Tests, Mark Ramprakash and Graeme Hick to name two, but both averaged more than 50 for their counties.

England say it is more that he "sets the tone". But his "Bazball" strike rate is lower than anyone else in the likely Ashes top seven. They say he does it when it counts. But in Tests England have won, his average falls to 25. He has taken only 13 of 26 chances as a close fielder. Yet he is never dropped.

In 2010, Cricket Australia said that a struggling Steve Smith was in the dressing room largely to cheer the rest up. After two years away, he offered rather more. Does Crawley?

Golf gods stack cards against you

While some golfers were heading to the US PGA Championship, others have been trying to get into next month's US Open. There was joy for some this week, such as Mitchell Griffin, who had a hole-in-one on the 16th hole of a one-round event in Pennsylvania to claim one of six places in final qualifying. For others, Madame Golf did her usual act of flirtation then rejection.

Golf Digest kindly spared the identity of one poor amateur but tweeted his scorecard, showing that after one hole he was two under par. Those whom the gods wish to destroy, they first give an eagle. His next hole was less impressive, 11 on a par four. A septuple bogey can really ruin a card and he threw in eight doubles and two triples in a round of 103. It was not the worst round — someone had a 111 — but at least this hacker could say he led at one point.



PIC OF THE WEEK
Joe Root met the Dalai Lama before Rajasthan Royals' Indian Premier League match against Punjab Kings in Dharamshala and gave him a ball. Hopefully it will put the England batsman in a good frame of mind: in 2017 Steve Smith met the Tibetan spiritual leader and made 111 in his next innings.

Steaks are high in elite sport

Luca Brecel was given a hero's welcome on Sunday when the world snooker champion returned to his home town of Maasmechelen in Belgium to be cheered by a thousand fans, who gave him an interesting gift: a chocolate billiard table. One, presumably, on which everyone wants to pot the brown. It joins a list of unusual rewards for sporting success. In 2003, Roger Federer was given a cow named Ganga by fans in Gstaad after he won his first Wimbledon; ten years later, milking his success a bit more, they gave him another cow, named Desiree. Winners of the Italian Open golf tournament get their weight in Parmesan cheese, which Graeme McDowell once said would do him 25 years of spag bol. And then there was David Steele, the cricketer, who got a lamb chop for every run up to 50 and steaks thereafter from a local abattoir owner. He ended 1975 with 1,756 lumps of meat. Brings a new meaning to being hungry for runs.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A look back at a memorable moment in sporting history

1991 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

Sonny Turner

LAT IMAGES





Piquet pushes ahead of his Benetton team-mate Schumacher as the grand prix begins with awful visibility, above. The conditions led to Mansell wrecking his Williams, right, and a red flag on the 16th lap bringing the race to an early conclusion, left



This weekend's Emilia Romagna Grand Prix at Imola has been cancelled because of torrential rain and flooding. The drivers involved in the 1991 Australian Grand Prix must have wished that organisers of their race did the same.

With the treacherous conditions making driving — let alone driving at breakneck speed — almost impossible, the race at the Adelaide Street Circuit became the shortest grand prix in Formula One history, a record which stood for 30 years. The track was so dangerous that Ayrton Senna, the winner of the race, was seen waving while driving, calling for it to be abandoned.

Senna's winning time was a mere 24 minutes and 34 seconds but there was no shortage of chaos and destruction, as the drivers' fight for positions became secondary to their struggle to stay safe.

Before the start, flooding caused by the unrelenting rain gave the track an ominous look. "It was a mistake for all of us to start. [The race] wasn't about going fast, it was about trying to stay on the track," Senna, who had won his second consecutive drivers' championship in the previous race, reflected.

"In fact, I only started because there was a lot at stake. The constructors' championship was still to be settled, otherwise there was no point to start."

Nigel Mansell's crash during the 16th lap was the final straw for the organisers, who ended the race. Regulations stated that the result should be taken at the end of the penultimate lap before the signal to suspend the race was given, so it was deemed a 14-lap contest. This meant that, despite crashing, Mansell finished second in his Williams while Gerhard Berger, Senna's McLaren team-mate, crossed the line third.

Even with many drivers taking the precaution of racing down a gear to prevent aquaplaning — when a build-up of water lodges between a car's tyres and the track to render steering ineffective — it was an impossible task.

At one point Berger lost control and spun maniacally forwards, transforming into a vortex on a track that was increasingly resembling a river. Somehow, he managed to wrestle back control, only to have a second spin later. That vortex proved too powerful, forcing Berger off the track and ending his race. Yet, like Mansell, he retained his place. On lap three, Satoru Nakajima ran into the back of Belgium's Thierry Boutsen and the Japanese driver spun out of his last grand prix two laps later. Boutsen was also forced to retire as a result of the nudge.

Nelson Piquet managed to reclaim fourth place from the young upstart Michael Schumacher, despite being propelled into a 360-degree spin at one point. The Brazilian recovered without losing his position.

Behind Schumacher, Jean Alesi attempted to overtake. His Ferrari clipped Schumacher's Benetton, sending it into a spin, which preceded a collision with Nicola Larini's Lamborghini. The incident ended all three drivers' races, as the retirees totted up and the piles of debris grew.

The penultimate incident came on lap nine. Pierluigi Martini, travelling down the Brabham Straight, hit one of the many puddles on the track. His car veered right, slamming hard into the wall.

The force of the collision caused Martini's Minardi to bounce back into multiple 360-degree spins, narrowly avoiding Alex Caffi and eventually rolling to a rest next to Alesi's Ferrari.

Mansell was pushing hard in his pursuit of Senna. He reached 170mph to get within 0.8 seconds of the eventual winner on lap 12, but suffered the wrath of the unleashed skies. The rainfall, coupled with Mansell's speed, sent the Briton aquaplaning into the surrounding concrete. Mansell, the final victim of the conditions, was unimpressed. "Everything was OK other than it was a complete joke," he said after the race. "There was debris all over the place. I've got a headache like there's no tomorrow, so I've probably had a little bit of concussion."

THE NEXT BIG THING

Luca Van Assche

- Age: 19
- Born in Belgium to a Belgian father and Italian mother, but represents France
- Won the 2021 French Open boys' singles
- Made his grand-slam debut in the men's doubles at the 2022 French Open
- Won first Challenger Tour title in Portugal in December 2022

ICON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES





6

Finals in Challenger Tour events already for the 19-year-old — he lost the first three and won the last three

Elgan Alderman

Luca Van Assche has had an impressive host of opponents on clay this season. At Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he beat Stan Wawrinka before losing to Novak Djokovic in three sets, and in Aix-en-Provence he was undone by Andy Murray in the quarter-finals with the Briton en route to victory.

These are early steps for the recently turned 19-year-old, whose successful start to the season led him inside the world's top 100 — the youngest man in double figures — just beating his friend and compatriot Arthur Fils. He won successive Challenger Tour events on the hard courts of Pau and the clay of Sanremo to take him up to No 91, and he crept up to No 85 over the next four weeks. The Pau win against Ugo Humbert was the longest Challenger final in history: it lasted three hours and 56 minutes, Van Assche surviving two match points.

Van Assche was born in Belgium but moved to France aged three, and his mother signed him up for tennis camp to make friends. At 5ft 10in, he is no behemoth. "He is a young fighter, he is fast," Djokovic said before their match.

Off the court, Van Assche likes French rappers such as Ninho, Paris Saint-Germain (their stadium is near his house), Formula One (he is a *Drive To Survive* convert) and rugby.

He is studying for a degree in mathematics, fitting homework in on his days off at tournaments.

No home favourite has won the men's singles at Roland Garros since Yannick Noah in 1983. However, Van Assche is one of three players to have triumphed in the boys' singles in recent years, along with Geoffrey Blancaneaux and Gabriel Debru.

He has upgraded to the senior ranks now. Van Assche was given a wild card to the Australian Open in January, losing to Britain's Cameron Norrie in the first round, and is on the entry list for the French Open.

If Ben's not got his boots on it's, 'Urgh, we're in for a long bowl'

James Anderson tells **John Westerby** he may play only three Ashes Test and how a fit Stokes lightens the load

As the Ashes loom ever larger, clouds of uncertainty hover over the make-up of England's bowling attack for the summer. In the past couple of weeks Jofra Archer has been ruled out until the autumn, Olly Stone has injured his hamstring and doubts remain over the ability of Ben Stokes, sitting on the sidelines at the Indian Premier League, to function as a fully fledged all-rounder. With five Tests to be played in seven weeks, starting at Edgbaston on June 16, we know for sure that a cast of plenty will be required for the quest to hunt down Australia's batsmen.

All of which means the more England can call on James Anderson, the better. The Lancashire fast bowler is nursing a groin strain himself and is likely to sit out the Test against Ireland, starting at Lord's on June 1, although he fully expects to be fit for the start of the series against Australia. But how many Ashes Tests does he expect to play?



"I think playing all five is a bit optimistic," he said. "If you said to any of the bowlers three, I think that's probably more realistic. If it's four, great. You take it game by game. If we're bowling 250 overs in the field in five days, you're probably going to have a rest. But there could be rain, we could bowl them out cheaply, you've just got to play it by ear. It would be silly to think we could get through with three or four bowlers. We're going to need good depth."

There will be some familiar faces assisting Anderson. Stuart Broad has been ticking over nicely for Nottinghamshire, while Chris Woakes and Matthew Potts have both been picked in the squad to face Ireland and Jack Leach is the frontline spinner. Much depends, though, on whether Stokes's troublesome left knee permits him to bowl and, in so doing, gives England a five-man rather than four-man attack.

Among the other bowlers, there is always great interest in the state of the captain's knee. "You can usually tell by the boots he comes on the field with," Anderson said. "If he's not got his bowling boots on it's like, 'Urgh, we're in for a long session.' It obviously helps when he's bowling, not just because of the workload, but the fact he's actually a really good bowler. I think he's conscious of the lack of help he's given us seamers in the last few months and he's working really hard to be a big part of the summer.

"It makes a huge difference with the workload and gives the opposition something else to think about. We've played for a lot of years in a four-man attack, we know how that pans out. But we'd like it to be a five-man attack, for more reasons than one, so we keep our fingers crossed he can play a part with the ball."



Anderson will again be a key man for England in the forthcoming Ashes series

Anderson turns 41 during the fifth Test at the Oval. Monday marks the 20th anniversary of his Test debut, against Zimbabwe at Lord's, when he took the first five of 685 Test wickets, a record for a fast bowler. He has played his part in past Ashes triumphs, but has not won a Test against Australia since the third Test at Edgbaston 2015, when he was a mere pup of 33. He strained his side during that match, ruling him out of the rest of the series, and suffered a recurrence of a calf injury at Edgbaston again in the first Test in 2019, restricting him to four overs in the series. He hopes for better luck on his return to Birmingham next month.

"I'm aware what's happened," he said, "but I've played long enough to park everything that's gone before, good and bad, and focus on what's to come. All I can do is get myself in the best shape possible to try to win Test matches this summer."

Great fascination lies in how Australia will respond to England's radical "Bazball" approach, which has revived their fortunes so spectacularly under Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum. After such a long and illustrious career, Anderson has savoured the attacking emphasis it has given England's bowlers and hopes that it could help with that tricky task of managing workloads.

"It's the shift in mindset from previous regimes, where we've been saying, 'If we go under 2.7 runs an over, we're going to create pressure and chances,'" Anderson said. "Ben couldn't care less about the run rate, he wants 20 wickets as quickly as possible. If that means setting an attacking field for ten to 15 overs longer than in the past, he'll do that. I've gone from bowling 35 overs in an innings, trying to winkle a few out, to just giving it everything in your spell. It never gets boring, I think it's great."

Is Stokes the best England captain he has played under? He thinks long and hard. "Yeah," Anderson said. "It's hard to say, over such a short period of time, but he's had an amazing start. He's completely different to any other captain I've played with."

Top of the to-do list for England's bowlers will be to work out how to dismiss Steve Smith, who scored 774 runs in four Tests in the 2019 Ashes, and has been acclimatising to local conditions by playing in the County Championship for Sussex.

"I don't see the guys coming over and playing county cricket having any effect on the Ashes," Anderson said. "The crowds are different, the wickets are different, the players are different. He could have got 600 runs in four games [for Sussex] and I don't think it would have an effect on how he plays in the Ashes. He might not have had a great run so far, but come that first Test, we know how competitive he is, how good a player he still is, we'll be working just as hard to get him out."

● *James Anderson was speaking at a launch announcing Radox as an official partner of England Cricket*

Rubio leaves bickering rivals behind to claim stage

Cycling
Elgan Alderman

On a day shortened by the extreme weather protocol, it was as you were for Geraint Thomas and Primoz Roglic in a subdued *Maglia Rosa* contest behind a three-man injection of excitement. In Switzerland, Thibaut Pinot and Jefferson Alexander Cepeda engaged in a leaders' tiff, quarrelling through the valley and up the mountain, only for Einer Rubio, the neutral party, to leave both behind at the death.

In his final season before retirement, Pinot was the ringleader of the 13th stage, heading the charge on the ascent and descent and attacking ceaselessly on the final climb of Crans-Montana. At 32, a winner up Col du Tourmalet and Alpe d'Huez, he bickered with Cepeda over a perceived lack of contribution. The Giro d'Italia was unable to uncork a fine vintage of *Pinot egregio*, but nor was it Cepeda's day as Rubio waited and kicked.



The riders navigated the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia without accident despite fears that narrow roads and banks of snow would make the route treacherous

Thomas and Roglic finished next to each other, ably supported by teammates throughout. The Welshman retained his two-second Pink Jersey advantage over the Slovenian.

"It was all under control," Thomas said. "The way the wind was at the end, it made it hard for attacks. I was waiting for some big attacks, but I think Primoz was happy to leave me in the jersey for a few more days, let us control the race, and bide his time for next week; that's the feeling I get."

This was to be a long-range endurance test, the first five-star stage taking in three climbs and crossing the border from Italy. Alas, in the Giro of a thousand hiccups, it turned into an explosive burst of 74.6km, rather than a drawn-out 199km. Issues of safety, temperature and rain meant riders had been in favour of missing Croix de Coeur. In the end? Awkward compromise.

Snow had already deprived us of the Great St Bernard Pass and rain forced the remaining competitors, countable on fewer and fewer hands as the days pass, to skip it altogether. After a short roll-out in Borgofranco d'Ivrea to honour its status as the starting point, the riders faced a lengthy bus journey to begin for real in Le Châble. It placed the start at the foot of Croix de Coeur, an immediate category-one climb of just over 15km at 8.8 per cent. Fears remained over the descent: banks of snow aside narrow roads, melting water in between. It was ridden without accident.

Thomas expected even the abridged format to be "super hard" as it started on a climb without a warm-up. "We've seen so many guys going home with sickness, so if we want to get to Rome with at least 50 guys, it's a good decision," he said.

Mads Pedersen, winner of the sixth stage, was the latest to drop out because of tracheitis. Gianni Moscon fancied keeping the stage as planned. "For me you could ride, then if someone wanted to stop they could," he said in the morning. "We are not ordered to be professional cyclists. If we don't like it, we can change jobs."

The trio at the front tried to provide observers with a *spettacolo*. Pinot, 4min 48sec down on the Pink Jersey, stretched a seven-man breakaway into a lead beyond three minutes ahead of an always fracturing mini-peloton. On the final climb of 13.1km at 7.2 per cent, Pinot competed with the South American axis of Cepeda and Rubio, the Frenchman making most of the moves. The bickering and accelerating took their toll and Colombia's Rubio took his first Grand Tour win.

No longer the main event – but signs of a quiet revival

Vitality Blast preview
Elizabeth Ammon


GARETH COPLEY/ECB/GETTY IMAGES

James Vince lifts the trophy as Hampshire celebrate their Vitality Blast success in 2022 — this year's tournament begins with a double-header at Edgbaston today

Rewind to pre-pandemic times and it was the Vitality Blast that was the premier domestic tournament, with almost a million tickets sold in 2019. The group games were played at the height of summer and Finals Day at Edgbaston was the highlight of the domestic calendar.

With the ECB finally able to launch the Hundred, its much hyped flagship tournament, in 2021, the Blast has been left trying to find its place in the country's cricketing landscape. It is still well loved and has a loyal following, but it has suffered from being forced to start in May, when the football season is reaching its finale, and fewer matches have been televised.

Last year sales for the Blast suffered badly from the tournament starting too early in the season and with too many matches being played on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Most counties have openly stated that they would prefer the games to be staged on Thursday and Friday evenings, when they are most likely to sell out their grounds by attracting the after-work crowd.

This year's sales are up on last year thanks, in part, to better marketing and an effective publicity campaign for "early bird" tickets, which offer discounted prices. However, some counties have reported that while overall sales are good, matches scheduled for early in the week are proving far more difficult to market.

This year's tournament kicks off — or blasts off, as it is being marketed — with a double-header at Edgbaston today, with Derbyshire playing a "home fixture" against Lancashire before the Birmingham Bears take on Yorkshire. The double-header has proved popular, with about 15,000 tickets sold. The tournament will culminate in Finals Day at Edgbaston on July 15, which is all but sold out.

There was always going to be tension between the Blast and the Hundred, with some arguing that they cannot coexist, while others believe they can complement each other. The long-term future of the Hundred is up for debate, but, for the moment at least, it is here to stay, and has been exclusively afforded the whole of August.

Pound for pound, the Blast remains a strong competition that continues to attract the world's best players. This year's tournament will have the likes of Glenn Maxwell, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Kane Richardson, Daryl Mitchell and Sunil Narine starring alongside England players, such as Jason Roy, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Jos Buttler, Moeen Ali and Alex Hales. England's white-ball players will be available for almost all of this year's tournament, given that there are no limited-overs international matches until the back end of the summer.

This year 25 Blast matches will be broadcast live on Sky Sports and all the matches will be livestreamed via each county's increasingly high-quality in-house coverage. There are now multiple cameras for the livestreaming, with well-known pundits such as David "Bumble" Lloyd, Paul Allott, Felix White and Mark Butcher, adding to the quality of the YouTube coverage.

Hampshire Hawks are the present champions, and they will kick off their defence of the trophy on Wednesday night against Somerset, while Surrey are in action two days in a row during the opening week — against Middlesex at an almost sold-out Lord's on Thursday and then a home clash against Kent Spitfires next Friday.

Each side, as usual, plays 14 group matches, with the top four teams in each pool (north and south) progressing to the quarter-finals.

Today's fixtures

Derbyshire Falcons v Lancashire Lightning (2.30, Edgbaston)

Birmingham Bears v Yorkshire Vikings (6.30, Edgbaston)

TV Sky Sports Cricket

Vaughan to make BBC comeback

Elizabeth Ammon

Michael Vaughan will return to the BBC commentary box this summer after being cleared of making a racist remark towards four Asian team-mates before a match for Yorkshire in 2009.

The 2005 Ashes-winning captain was dropped by the BBC in the autumn of 2021 after being accused by Azeem Rafiq of saying "there's too many of you lot, we need to do something about that" to the former Yorkshire all-rounder and three other Asian team-mates.

Vaughan was scheduled to return to the corporation last summer but stood down after being charged by the ECB with bringing the game into disrepute. He was cleared of the charge in March by the independent Cricket Discipline Commission panel, which found "significant inconsistencies" in the evidence it was given.

The 48-year-old has held discussions with the BBC and will return as a commentator for its radio coverage, as well as being a guest on its Test match TV highlights programmes, starting with the game against Ireland at Lord's next month and then the five-match Ashes series, which begins on June 16 at Edgbaston.


Vaughan is returning to the BBC

On Friday, Tim Davie, the BBC director-general, approved the return of the former England opener, and senior sport executives at the corporation have renegotiated Vaughan's contract.

During his break from working for the BBC, Vaughan had continued to write a column for The Telegraph and worked as a pundit for Fox in Australia but was stood down from coverage of the 2021-22 Ashes after BT Sport, which held the UK rights for the series, decided that it would not be appropriate to have the former England batsman on its coverage.

Five other cricketers who played at Yorkshire at the same time as Vaughan — the former England players Tim Bresnan and Matthew Hoggard, along with Richard Pyrah, Andrew Gale and John Blain — were found liable of using offensive or discriminatory language during their time at the club as either a player or a coach.

The disciplinary panel is expected to announce the sanctions against them by the end of the month, which are likely to be fines of between £5,000 and £7,500.

RESULTS

Cricket

LV= Insurance County Championship
Division One

Hampshire v Northamptonshire
The Ageas Bowl (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 261 runs behind Hampshire

Hampshire: First Innings (overnight 331-6)
L A Dawson b Taylor 63
K H D Barker not out 38
M S Crane lbw b White 4
J A Turner c Gay b White 0
M Abbas c Azad b Taylor 1
Extras (b 10, lb 14, w 5, nb 16) 45
Total (110.1 overs) 367
Fall of wickets 1-51, 2-86, 3-88, 4-194, 5-269, 6-281, 7-355, 8-364, 9-364.
Bowling White 27-6-80-4; Buckingham 21-2-82-1; Taylor 26.1-7-58-2; Sales 12-3-32-2; Keogh 10-3-28-1; Russell 14-0-63-0.

Northamptonshire: First Innings
E N Gay c Middleton b Abbas 9
M H Azad run out 0
*S M Whiteman lbw b Barker 0
R I Keogh c Weatherley b Barker 5
†R S Vasconcelos lbw b Barker 3
S A Zaib c Gubbins b Holland 29
J J G Sales b Barker 0
T A I Taylor c Middleton b Abbas 0
J S D Buckingham c Dawson b Holland 5
C J White b Turner 1
A K Russell not out 0
Extras (lb 4) 4
Total (30.2 overs) 56
Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-8, 3-10, 4-19, 5-22, 6-22, 7-27, 8-51, 9-56.
Bowling Barker 12-7-13-4; Abbas 10-3-20-2; Holland 5-1-10-2; Turner 3.2-0-9-1.

Second Innings
E N Gay lbw b Turner 13
M H Azad lbw b Barker 0
*S M Whiteman not out 25
R I Keogh not out 8
Extras (lb 4) 4
Total (2 wkts, 19 overs) 50
Fall of wickets 1-9, 2-30.
Bowling Barker 5-0-20-1; Abbas 6-3-6-0; Turner 4-1-10-1; Holland 3-0-10-0; Dawson 1-1-0-0.
Umpires P J Hartley and J D Middlebrook

Surrey v Kent
The Kia Oval (second day of four): Kent, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are four runs behind Surrey

Kent: First Innings 278 (J D M Evison 77 not out)

Second Innings
Z Crawley not out 31
B G Compton c Pope b Clark 1
T Muyeye c sub b Lawes 42
W Agar b Abbott 0
L Leaning b Lawes 1
Extras (nb 4) 4
Total (4 wkts, 21.4 overs) 80
To bat *S Billings, J Cox, J Evison, G Stewart, M Hogan, A Bhuiyan
Fall of wickets 1-20, 2-78, 3-79, 4-80
Bowling Worrall 7-2-17-0; Clark 4-0-31-1; Atkinson 4-0-21-0; Abbott 2.4-1-7-0; Lawes 1-0-2-0.

Surrey: First Innings
D P Sibley c Leaning b Evison 60
O J D Pope c Stewart b Bhuiyan 34
J L Smith c Leaning b Bhuiyan 8
†B T Foakes c Leaning b Bhuiyan 17
W G Jacks c Hogan b Bhuiyan 24
J Clark c Compton b Evison 8
S A Abbott c Cox b Agar 78
T E Lawes c Compton b Agar 20
A A P Atkinson not out 55
D J Worrall b Agar 6
Extras (b 16, lb 7, w 1, nb 14) 38
Total (92.3 overs) 362
Fall of wickets 1-25, 2-109, 3-125, 4-152, 5-179, 6-180, 7-211, 8-264, 9-329.
Bowling Agar 19.3-2-76-3; Hogan 21-3-72-1; Bhuiyan 20-6-65-4; Stewart 17-4-59-0; Evison 11-2-54-2; Leaning 4-1-13-0.
Umpires N J Llong and R J Bailey

Middlesex v Somerset
Lord's (second day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 148 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Somerset

Somerset: First Innings (overnight 325-6)
L Gregory c Simpson b Higgins 42
C Overton lbw b Murtagh 3
M J Henry c Bamber b Higgins 40
M J Leach b Bamber 8
P M Siddle not out 3
Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 4) 9
Total (111.2 overs) 404
Fall of wickets 1-6, 2-10, 3-193, 4-231, 5-293, 6-322, 7-328, 8-389, 9-398.
Bowling Murtagh 27-6-102-3; Roland-Jones 26-8-85-1; Higgins 21.2-2-74-4; Bamber 24-4-86-2; Hollman 11-2-42-0; Robson 2-0-10-0.

Middlesex: First Innings
M D Stoneman b Henry 7
S D Robson c Davies b Gregory 28
S S Eskinazi c Davies b Henry 0
M D E Holden lbw b Henry 17
R G White lbw b Gregory 0
†J A Simpson not out 57
R F Higgins lbw b Leach 17
L B K Hollman c Kohler-Cadmore b Leach 0
*T S Roland-Jones c Lammonby b Henry 39
E R Bamber c Davies b Henry 1
T J Murtagh run out 0
Extras (lb 5nb 4) 9
Total (52 overs) 175
Fall of wickets 1-20, 2-20, 3-48, 4-49, 5-70, 6-117, 7-119, 8-173, 9-175.
Bowling Henry 16-2-45-5; Overton 11-2-41-0; Gregory 9-1-40-2; Siddle 9-3-22-0; Leach 7-2-22-2.

Second Innings
S D Robson c Davies b Siddle 18
M D Stoneman not out 45
S S Eskinazi not out 16
Extras (nb 2) 2
Total (1 wkt, 24 overs) 81
Fall of wicket 1-27.
Bowling Henry 5-0-12-0; Siddle 6-1-20-1; Overton 6-1-15-0; Gregory 4-0-28-0; Leach 3-1-6-0.
Umpires I D Blackwell and P R Pollard

Nottinghamshire v Essex
Trent Bridge (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 28 runs ahead of Essex

Essex: First Innings: 298 (A N Cook 72; T Westley 66; B A Hutton 4 for 69)

Nottinghamshire: First Innings (overnight 13-0)
B T Slater c Rossington b S J Cook 57
H Hameed c A N Cook b S J Cook 13
M Montgomery not out 130
†J M Clarke c Porter b Critchley 57
L W James c Rossington b S J Cook 28
*S J Mullaney lbw b Bracewell 27
Extras (b 5, lb 7, nb 2) 14
Total (5 wkts, 98.5 overs) 326
L Patterson-White, C G Harrison, B A Hutton, S C J Broad and D Paterson to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-37, 2-108, 3-205, 4-278, 5-326.
Bowling Cook 20-4-51-3; Porter 19-4-75-0; Snater 19-5-53-0; Bracewell 16.5-2-53-1; Harmer 17-3-58-0; Critchley 7-0-24-1.
Umpires T Lungley and S J O'Shaughnessy

Division Two

Worcestershire v Leicestershire
Worcester (second day of four): Worcestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand need 245 runs to beat Leicestershire

Leicestershire: First Innings 173 (C N Ackermann 52)

Second Innings (overnight 66-2)
W S Davis lbw b Leach 12
J H Davey c Pollock b Leach 2
*L J Hill b Waite 49
C N Ackermann c Pollock b Leach 1
†P S P Handscomb c D'Oliveira b Waite 26
P W A Mulder c Haynes b Waite 8
R Ahmed st Roderick b Leach 7

Sussex teenager takes centre stage after Smith falls short of century

Sussex v Glamorgan

Hove (second day of four): Glamorgan, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 240 runs behind Sussex

LV= Insurance County Championship

Ivo Tennant

The anticipation, indeed the expectation, was that Steve Smith would make a century. Nothing seemed more likely than that this would occur in his third and last match for Sussex before the start of the World Test Championship final and the Ashes. After a couple of unproductive appearances he was on 68 overnight and the pitch had flattened out, yet he was to be upstaged by the youngest cricketer to have played for his adopted county.

Smith was out for 89, leg before to an in-ducker from James Harris, but James Coles, his overnight partner who is now 19, reached his maiden first-class century. He was only 16 and 157 days when he first played for Sussex, a little younger than the watching John Barclay, who was on his feet to applaud him, was on his debut in 1970. Although Smith's warm-up for the Ashes inevitably has attracted criticism from some quarters, it should not be overlooked how beneficial it must have been for Coles to have batted with him.

In fact Smith was far from the dominant partner when they resumed yesterday. He made only ten runs in the first hour and was dropped on 69 at first slip off Michael Neser, his Australian compatriot. Here he had some luck in that Timm van der Gugten had been stationed there owing to David Lloyd not playing on account of injury. Fast bowlers are not generally posted to such a specialist position, although it should not be forgotten that John Snow, arguably the greatest of them to have run down the slope at Hove in the past, did so from time to time.

Then Smith unfurled a lovely cover driven four off Harris and swung him for six over the heads of some of the 950 schoolchildren who had been invited into the ground free of charge by Sussex. The ball sailed over a fence and into a garden. Two balls later, however, he was given out by umpire Martin Saggers when neither forward nor back on the crease. He had struck ten fours in addition to that six and, most importantly for him, had played himself back into form.

Coles, who has been chosen for England under-19s and has just signed a three-year contract extension with Sussex, drove with impressive confidence and reached his century with his 16th four. He had struck a further five when he, too, was leg before to Harris. There was a world-weary air about Glamorgan's attack when Fynn Hudson-Prentice struck a half century off 47 balls and a huge first innings lead was extended further when Ollie Robinson, no doubt irked at having been hit by a bouncer from Neser, carved him for three fours in a row before he was caught at mid-on.

Sussex finished with a lead of 358, whereupon Glamorgan did make a better fist of their second innings through their openers putting on 91. Then Eddie Byrom, who had been reprieved after initially being given out caught behind the wicket — after a conflab the umpires were unclear whether the ball had carried — was held at square leg, mistiming a pull. Robinson was the bowler on both occasions.

He was, however, unable to remove Marnus Labuschagne, as he had so swiftly the previous day. His opening spell was as probing as ever but the other exceptional Australia batsman playing in this match, who will be encountering him on plenty more occasions this summer, was soon middling a drive to the long-off boundary. What was more, he survived to the close, though Glamorgan were still a long way in arrears.

PAUL DENNIS/TGS PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK







Smith was given out lbw with the ball hitting him outside the line of off stump, above, while Coles, right, made 138

Henry stars as Middlesex fold again

Championship round-up

Elizabeth Ammon

Somerset are in a strong position to secure their first win of the season after forcing the hosts Middlesex to follow-on as the New Zealand all-rounder Matt Henry starred with bat and ball.

Henry took five for 45 as Middlesex collapsed to 175 all out in their first innings. The paceman had made an explosive 40 with the bat in the first hour of the day to take Somerset past 400.

It has been a difficult start to Middlesex's return to Division One and the team have managed to pick up only one batting bonus point in the six matches they have played. Their batting woes continued with only John Simpson passing 50. Following on, the home side lost the opener Sam Robson in reaching 81 for one at stumps, still trailing by 148.

At the Oval, Kent lost three wickets in the last three overs of the day as the title holders, Surrey, took control of their final match before this period of red-ball cricket makes way for the Vitality Blast. A lower-order assault by Sean Abbott and Gus Atkinson, who both hit fifties, gave the home side a helpful first innings lead of 84.

Zak Crawley made a responsible unbeaten 31 as Kent's second innings began solidly but the England opener could only watch on as his side slipped from 78 for one to 80 for four by stumps, still trailing by four runs.

In Southampton, Northamptonshire crumbled to 56 all out, the lowest total in the Ageas Bowl's 22-year history, in reply to Hampshire's first innings of 367. Following on, they lost both openers for a second time and finished the day trailing by 261. The veteran seamer Keith Barker got impressive lateral movement to finish with four for 13 in Northamptonshire's first innings.

In Division Two, Leicestershire are well placed to pick up their second win of the season, taking two wickets having set Worcestershire a challenging 271 to win at New Road. Josh Davey, on loan from Somerset, made the double breakthrough, dismissing the openers Azhar Ali, for a pair, and Ed Pollock, in his first over. Leicestershire had been bowled out for 180 thanks to Joe Leach's 16th first-class five-wicket haul and a career-best four for 21 by Matthew Waite.

On a flat pitch in Bristol, the Durham spinner Ajaz Patel put the visitors in command, claiming a season's best haul of five for 93 as the home side were reduced to 255 for nine in reply to Durham's imposing first innings of 445.

T A R Scriven c Haynes b Waite	0
C J C Wright not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 10)	17
Total (59.1 overs)	**180**

Fall of wickets 1-64, 2-64, 3-66, 4-81, 5-89, 6-160, 7-173, 8-174, 9-174.
Bowling Leach 20.1-9-41-5; Gibbon 6-0-38-0; Brooks 9-0-49-1; Waite 12-5-21-4; Finch 12-5-24-0.
Worcestershire: First Innings 83 (C J C Wright 5 for 32.)
Second Innings

A Ali c Mulder b Davey	0
E J Pollock c Scriven b Davey	1
†G H Roderick not out	6
J A Haynes not out	17
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (2 wkts, 16 overs)	**26**

Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-2.
Bowling Wright 6-3-6-0; Davey 6-1-19-2; Mulder 2-2-0-0; Scriven 2-1-1-0.
Umpires N Pratt and J Shantry

Sussex v Glamorgan
Hove (second day of four): Glamorgan, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 240 runs behind Sussex
Glamorgan: First Innings 123 (O E Robinson 4 for 29)
Second Innings

Z Ul-Hassan not out	40
E J Byrom c Carson b Robinson	57
M Labuschagne not out	15
Extras (b 2, lb 2, nb 2)	6
Total (1 wkt, 32 overs)	**118**

Fall of wicket 1-91.
Bowling Robinson 9-4-20-1; Karvelas 8-2-22-0; Hudson-Prentice 4-0-30-0; Haines 5-3-8-0; Carson 6-1-34-0.
Sussex: First Innings (overnight 221-4)

S P D Smith lbw b Harris	89
J M Coles lbw b Harris	138
†O J Carter c Neser b van der Gugten	28
F J Hudson-Prentice c Harris b Carlson	73
J J Carson not out	19
A Karvelas c and b Carlson	0
O E Robinson c van der Gugten b Neser	13
Extras (b 8, lb 8, nb 4)	20
Total (119.5 overs)	**481**

Fall of wickets 1-76, 2-81, 3-83, 4-131, 5-274, 6-331, 7-410, 8-455, 9-463.
Bowling Neser 21.5-5-81-3; Van der Gugten 22-4-86-1; McIlroy 27-3-91-2; Harris 25-4-104-2; Ul-Hassan 16-1-48-0; Labuschagne 6-0-49-0; Carlson 2-0-6-2.
Umpires R A White and M J Saggers

Gloucestershire v Durham
Bristol (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 190 runs behind Durham
Durham: First Innings (overnight 393-9)

P Coughlin not out	59
A Y Patel c Bracey b M D Taylor	22
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 4)	12
Total (104.2 overs)	**445**

Fall of wickets 1-15, 2-86, 3-149, 4-149, 5-214, 6-338, 7-350, 8-369, 9-374.
Bowling Singh-Dale 22-1-91-2; Taylor 20.2-3-79-2; Shaw 12-3-35-1; Akhter 15-0-82-1; Khan 32-4-130-4; Charlesworth 2-0-15-0; Taylor 1-0-6-0.
Gloucestershire: First Innings

M S Harris c Robinson b Patel	52
C D J Dent lbw b Potts	8
B G Charlesworth c Bedingham b de Leede	71
M A H Hammond b Raine	21
J M R Taylor b Patel	16
*†J R Bracey c Bedingham b Potts	14
Z G Khan st Robinson b Patel	18
M D Taylor c Borthwick b Patel	0
J Shaw not out	17
Z Akhter c Potts b Patel	0
A Singh-Dale not out	7
Extras (b 14, lb 7, w 2, nb 8)	31
Total (9 wkts, 72 overs)	**255**

Fall of wickets 1-10, 2-110, 3-139, 4-168, 5-189, 6-214, 7-217, 8-227, 9-227.
Bowling Raine 15-4-42-1; Potts 16-4-35-2; Coughlin 13-3-46-0; Patel 25-4-93-5; De Leede 3-0-18-1.
Umpires S Shanmugam and M Newell

Football

Sky Bet League One play-off sem-final second leg Barnsley 1 Bolton 0.
Barnsley win 2-1 on aggregate
Report, page 11
Scottish Premiership play-offs
Partick Thistle 3 Ayr United 0.
Scottish League One play-off second leg
Clyde 1 Annan Athletic 2.
Annan win 3-1 on aggregate

Rugby union

Challenge Cup final

Glasgow	**19**	**Toulon**	**43**

Glasgow: Tries Steyn 2 (55min, 73), Cancelliere (68). **Cons** G Horne 2. **Toulon: Tries** Serin 2 (4, 24), Parisse (17), Wainiqolo (57), Nayacalevu (63), West (77) **Cons** Serin 3, Paillaugue 2. **Pen** Paillaugue (50). **HT** 0-21.
Report, page 15

Cycling

Giro d'Italia
Stage 13 (Borgofranco d'Ivrea to Crans Montana, 74.6km): E A Rubio Reyes (Col, Movistar Team) at 2hr 16min 21sec; 2, T Pinot (Fr, Groupama-FDJ) at 6sec behind; 3, J Cepeda Ortiz (Ec, EF Education-Easypost) at 12sec behind; 4, D Gee (Can, Israel-Premier Tech) at 1min 1sec behind; 5, V Paret-Peintre (Fr, AG2R Citroen Team) at 1min 29sec. **Overall leading positions** 1, G Thomas (GB, Ineos Grenadiers) at 51hr 20min 1sec; 2, P Roglic (Slovenia, Jumbo-Visma) at 2sec behind; 3, J P Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) at 22sec behind; 4, A Leknessund (Nor, Team DSM) at 42sec behind; 5, D Caruso (It, Bahrain Victorious) at 1min 28sec behind

Rugby league

Betfred Challenge Cup, sixth round
Halifax Panthers 6 St Helens 26; Wakefield Trinity 12 Leigh Leopards 40; Hull Kingston Rovers 50 Batley Bulldogs 0.

Golf

PGA Tour: US PGA Championship
Page 16.

Tennis

Internazionali BNL d'Italia
Women's semi-finals (30) A Kalinina (Ukr) bt (11) V Kudermetova (Russ) 7-5, 5-7, 6-2; (7) E Rybakina (Kaz) bt (20) J Ostapenko (Lat) 6-2, 6-4.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Premier League Tottenham v Brentford (12.30); Bournemouth v Man Utd; Fulham v Crystal Palace; Liverpool v Aston Villa; Wolves v Everton (all 3.0); Nott'm Forest v Arsenal (5.30).
Scottish Premiership Hearts v Aberdeen (12.30P); Celtic v St Mirren; Kilmarnock v St Johnstone; Livingston v Dundee United; Motherwell v Ross County (all 3.0).
FA Women's Super League
Tottenham Hotspur v Reading (4.15).
League Two play-offs Stockport County (0) v Salford City (1) (12.30); Carlisle United (0) v Bradford City (1) (3.0).
Scottish Championship play-offs Hamilton Academical (0) v Airdrieonians (1) (5.15).
Scottish League Two play-offs Albion Rovers (1) v The Spartans (1) (3.0).

Other

Rugby league
Betfred Challenge Cup Leeds Rhinos v Wigan Warriors (2.30); Catalans Dragons v Warrington Wolves (5.0); Salford Red Devils v Huddersfield Giants (7.30).
Rugby union
Heineken Champions Cup final Leinster v La Rochelle (4.45).
Boxing
Super-lightweight world title fight K Taylor (Ire) v C Cameron (Eng) (10pm)

Dettori can equal Lockinge record on classy filly Laurel

Rob Wright Racing Editor

Frankie Dettori is keen to bow out in style in his final year in the saddle and the Italian can claim another group one success on board the classy filly **Laurel** in the Al Shaqab Lockinge Stakes (3.35) at Newbury today.

Dettori, 52, landed a fourth 2,000 Guineas on Chaldean this month and has leading fancies to ride in both the Derby and Oaks, with Arrest and Soul Sister. Victory on Laurel would mean he equals the record of six wins in this race by the great Lester Piggott and he looks to have excellent claims.

Laurel was unraced as a juvenile and has been brought along with typical patience by the father-and-son training team of John and Thady Gosden. She did not make her debut until the end of July last year and, after winning her first two starts in fine style, she ran a cracker when a close second to Fonteyn on her first try at this level in the Sun Chariot Stakes at Newmarket in October.

She travelled like the best horse for much of that race but, after quickening to the front a furlong out, she was seen off by the battle-hardened Fonteyn.

Laurel made a successful return to action in a listed race on the all-weather at Kempton Park, powering clear of her rivals to win impressively. That will have put her spot-on for this test and, open to plenty of improvement, she can follow up.

William Haggas, who saddled the brilliant Baaeed to win this last year, relies on My Prospero here. This colt does not have quite the talent of his former stablemate, who has retired to stud, but he is lightly raced and open to further progress. His only two defeats last year came in group one company but he emerged with plenty of credit on each occasion. He rates the main threat.

Aidan O'Brien has no runner in the Lockinge but the Irish trainer can strike with **Bertinelli** in the BetVictor London Gold Cup (3.00). He was a good second to the useful Alder on his reappearance at Cork last month, not given an overly hard time on his first start for five months. He should be sharper now and can justify the journey across the Irish Sea.

At Newmarket, **Totnes** makes plenty of appeal in the Aspall Cyder 1728 Handicap (2.05). She is bred to be useful — her dam was a group winner at this track — and she showed a sharp turn of foot to win on her handicap debut at Lingfield. She remains open to plenty of improvement.

Striking Star looks the one to beat in the Aspall Premier Cru Handicap (3.15). He travelled well for a long way when a close second over this course and distance last time and he is likely to be more effective on faster ground here.

ROB WRIGHT'S WEEKEND GUIDE

Big-race trends
Al Shaqab Lockinge Stakes
(3.35 Newbury)
Well-fancied four-year-olds have held sway in this group one race this century. In that time, only five older horses have been successful, while no winner has been sent off at odds bigger than 8-1

Banker or bust?
Noble Style
(1.50 Newbury)
Winner of the Gimcrack Stakes at York last August, he shaped well when sixth in the 2,000 Guineas on his reappearance, just not lasting home over a mile. Back in distance, he will be tough to beat. BANKER

Red-hot trainer
Ben Haslam
The North Yorkshire handler has his team in fine form, saddling four winners from his past seven runners. His only entry today is Band Of Outlaws (2.45 Bangor-on-Dee)

Repeat performance?
Prince Of Bel Lir
(7.50 Doncaster)
Has dropped to a 2lb lower mark than when winning this 12 months ago but has lost his way. Last season, he had won his previous start but he finished last at Doncaster on his latest run. He looks completely out of form

What's in a name
Rousing Encore
(1.50 Newbury)
This cleverly named colt is the progeny of the stallion, Acclamation, and the mare, Jolie Chanson, which translates to lovely song. He has a fair amount of ability but looks likely to struggle at this level

Bet of the day
Totnes
(2.05 Newmarket)
Won on her handicap debut at Lingfield, deserving extra credit as she was held up in a slowly run race. She showed a good turn of foot there and is open to plenty of improvement

Newbury
Rob Wright

1.50 Noble Style
2.25 Haskoy
3.00 Bertinelli
3.35 Laurel
4.10 Kingdom Come
4.45 Warm Heart
5.18 Popmaster

Going good, good to firm in places
Draw no advantage
Racing TV

1.50 BetVictor Carnarvon Stakes (Listed) (3-Y-O: £28,355: 6f) (8 runners) ITV

1	(7)	34141-	**RUMSTAR** 225 (D) J Portman 9-7	H Crouch	106
2	(8)	1442-2	**AESOP'S FABLES** 28 (D) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-2	R L Moore	105
3	(1)	02110	**DESERT COP** 17 (D) A Balding 9-2	O Murphy	105
4	(6)	111-6	**NOBLE STYLE** 14 (D) C Appleby 9-2	W Buick	♦117
5	(2)	3-11	**RABAAH** 82 (D) C Hills 9-2	J Crowley	110
6	(4)	524-05	**ROUSING ENCORE** 17 (D) R Fahey 9-2	T Marquand	102
7	(5)	1011-1	**SHAQUILLE** 14 (H,D) J Camacho 9-2	James Doyle	102
8	(3)	554-55	**LADY HAMANA** 23 (P) K R Burke 8-11	Doubtful	97

10-11 Noble Style, 9-2 Aesop's Fables, 5-1 Shaquille, 10-1 Rabaah, 12-1 Rumstar, 16-1 Desert Cop, 20-1 Rousing Encore, 25-1 other.

Rob Wright's choice: Noble Style drops in trip after failing to stay a mile when sixth in the 2,000 Guineas **Dangers** Aesop's Fables, Desert Cop

2.25 Al Rayyan Stakes (Registered As The Aston Park Stakes) (Group 3) (£56,710: 1m 4f) (7) ITV

1	(7)	60/4-3	**BOLSHOI BALLET** 28 A P O'Brien (Ire) 5-9-2	R L Moore	108
2	(1)	1/130-	**GAASSEE** 273 (T,BF,D) W Haggas 5-9-2	T Marquand	103
3	(4)	13310-	**ISRAR** 196 (BF,C,D) J & T Gosden 4-9-2	J Crowley	106
4	(6)	226-42	**KEMARI** 77 (P,BF) C Appleby 5-9-2	James Doyle	♦112
5	(2)	0-11	**OLD HARROVIAN** 40 (D) A Balding 4-9-2	O Murphy	101
6	(5)	/2231-	**YIBIR** 317 (H,C,D) C Appleby 5-9-2	W Buick	110
7	(3)	11D-	**HASKOY** 251 (T,D) R Beckett 4-8-13	L Dettori	111

13-8 Yibir, 7-2 Haskoy, 6-1 Israr, 7-1 Kemari, 8-1 Gaassee, 10-1 Bolshoi Ballet, 12-1 Old Harrovian.

Wright choice: Haskoy ran a cracker when second (placed fourth after a stewards' inquiry) in the St Leger; she remains unexposed **Danger** Yibir

3.00 BetVictor London Gold Cup Heritage Handicap (3-Y-O: £51,540: 1m 2f) (16) ITV

1	(14)	111-15	**BOLD ACT** 31 (BF) C Appleby 9-9	W Buick	♦101
2	(10)	21-2	**BERTINELLI** 29 (BF) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-5	R L Moore	100
3	(16)	16-2	**EXOPLANET** 29 (C) R Varian 9-3	J Mitchell	98
4	(12)	1-431	**ROYAL RHYME** 13 (T,D) K R Burke 9-1	C Lee	90
5	(3)	131-	**DESERT HERO** 208 W Haggas 9-0	T Marquand	94
6	(13)	051-6	**MR MISTOFFELEES** 30 H Morrison 8-12	Rossa Ryan	89
7	(5)	01-5	**FORCA TIMAO** 15 R Hannon 8-12	K Stott	87
8	(4)	01-6	**LIEBER POWER** 66 (BF) A Balding 8-12	O Murphy	92
9	(9)	33151-	**LOYAL TOUCH** 173 Charlie Johnston 8-10	L Dettori	95
10	(2)	42131-	**HAVE SECRET** 227 (D) R Fahey 8-9	A Atzeni	91
11	(6)	211-5	**COOL PARTY** 13 Charlie Johnston 8-4	F Norton	85
12	(1)	3221	**OLD SMOKE** 28 R Fahey 8-2	G Rooke	83
13	(7)	RR52-1	**SILVER SWORD** 32 Dylan Cunha 8-2	Greg Cheyne	88
14	(11)	2360-	**PJANOO** 254 R Spencer 8-2	H Doyle	79
15	(15)	3111-0	**RAINTOWN** 15 (D) J S Moore 8-2	Georgia Dobie (3)	84
16	(8)	050-1	**ITHACA'S ARROW** 16 D F Davis 8-2	Rose Dawes (5)	79

4-1 Desert Hero, 5-1 Exoplanet, 6-1 Royal Rhyme, 7-1 Bertinelli, 8-1 Bold Act, Lieber Power, 14-1 Silver Sword, Have Secret, Loyal Touch, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: Bertinelli chased home the useful Alder on his reappearance at Cork; he can improve **Dangers** Desert Hero, Exoplanet

3.35 Al Shaqab Lockinge Stakes (Group 1) (British Champions Series) (Str) (£198,485: 1m) (13) ITV

1	(7)	364-11	**BERKSHIRE SHADOW** 43 (C,D) A Balding 4-9-2	O Murphy	112
2	(2)	0134-4	**CHECKANDCHALLENGE** 15 (D) W Knight 4-9-2	A Atzeni	112
3	(6)	4160-1	**CHINDIT** 17 (C,D) R Hannon 5-9-2	P Dobbs	120
4	(1)	/1113-	**JADOOMI** 217 (D) S & E Crisford 5-9-2	James Doyle	115
5	(4)	1065-5	**JUMBY** 30 (C) E J-Houghton 5-9-2	C Bishop	109
6	(11)	/022-3	**LIGHT INFANTRY** 15 (C) D M Simcock 4-9-2	J P Spencer	♦124
7	(9)	305-64	**LUSAIL** 17 (BF) R Hannon 4-9-2	R L Moore	117
8	(13)	2121-2	**MODERN GAMES** 36 (BF,D) C Appleby 4-9-2	W Buick	115
9	(3)	3241-1	**MUTASAABEQ** 15 (B,D) C Hills 5-9-2	J Crowley	120
10	(12)	11313-	**MY PROSPERO** 217 (CD) W Haggas 4-9-2	T Marquand	121
11	(8)	601-36	**THE WIZARD OF EYE** 7 (P,C,D) J S Moore 4-9-2	K Shoemark	108
12	(10)	11/10-	**TRIPLE TIME** 231 (D) K Ryan 4-9-2	N Callan	113
13	(5)	112-1	**LAUREL** 40 (D) J & T Gosden 4-8-13	L Dettori	122

5-2 Modern Games, 10-3 Laurel, 4-1 My Prospero, 7-1 Mutasaabeq, 8-1 Jadoomi, 10-1 Light Infantry, 20-1 Checkandchallenge, Chindit, 30-1 others.

Wright choice: Laurel has quickly developed into a top-class filly; she won easily on her return at Kempton **Dangers** My Prospero, Light Infantry

4.10 Handicap (£40,500: 1m) (13)

1	(5)	0012-6	**BLESS HIM** 28 (H,D) D M Simcock 9-9-9	J P Spencer	88
2	(6)	3000-4	**INTELLOGENT** 32 (D) J Chapple-Hyam 8-9-9	H Doyle	97
3	(8)	30300-	**SONNY LISTON** 231 R Beckett 4-9-7	Rossa Ryan	♦105
4	(3)	00/111	**KINGDOM COME** 45 C Cox 4-9-6	K Shoemark	93
5	(12)	23-110	**ALREHB** 28 (D) K P De Foy 6-9-4	James Doyle	94
6	(7)	611-05	**ATRIUM** 28 (CD) C Fellowes 4-9-3	R L Moore	100
7	(1)	6140-0	**DAWN OF LIBERATION** 14 (D) R Hannon 4-9-3	P Dobbs	82
8	(10)	220/4-	**BERINGER** 371 (D) A King 8-9-2	T Marquand	98
9	(13)	514301	**OUTBREAK** 15 (D) Charlie Johnston 4-9-1	A Atzeni	97
10	(2)	1/1120	**UNFORGOTTEN** 32 (B,D) J & T Gosden 5-9-1	L Dettori	82
11	(9)	1601-0	**WANEES** 49 (H,D) C Hills 4-9-0	J Crowley	96
12	(4)	0-0310	**BEAR FORCE ONE** 17 (P,CD) R Teal 7-8-11	O Murphy	80
13	(11)	50211-	**TOP SECRET** 183 (H,D) W Muir & C Grassick 6-8-4	Georgia Dobie (3)	86

7-2 Kingdom Come, 6-1 Intellogent, 7-1 Atrium, 8-1 Outbreak, Unforgotten, 10-1 Bless Him, 12-1 Wanees, Top Secret, Beringer, 16-1 others.

4.45 Fillies' Trial Stakes (3-Y-O: £39,697: 1m 2f) (10)

1	(8)	1114-0	**POLLY POTT** 13 B Pauling 9-7	O Murphy	♦90
2	(10)	1-	**BLUESTOCKING** 233 R Beckett 9-2	Rossa Ryan	89
3	(6)	51-43	**CLOUDBREAKER** 48 C Fellowes 9-2	James Doyle	76
4	(2)	12	**CRACK OF LIGHT** 45 (BF) W Haggas 9-2	T Marquand	72
5	(7)	1-0	**INNER SPACE** 31 J & T Gosden 9-2	L Dettori	69
6	(4)	2	**LMAY** 21 J & T Gosden 9-2	K Shoemark	83
7	(1)	1-5	**QUEEN OF FAIRIES** 13 (BF) C Appleby 9-2	Doubtful	74
8	(9)	10-30	**RICH** 18 (C) R Hannon 9-2	P Dobbs	84
9	(5)	042-	**SCENIC** 152 E Walker 9-2	H Doyle	61
10	(3)	4-21	**WARM HEART** 13 (D) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-2	R L Moore	89

7-4 Bluestocking, 11-4 Warm Heart, 6-1 Inner Space, 7-1 Polly Pott, 10-1 Crack Of Light, 12-1 Lmay, 20-1 Rich, 25-1 Cloudbreaker, 30-1 others.

5.18 Handicap (£18,319: 6f) (19)

1	(10)	006-00	**POPMASTER** 14 (B,D) E Walker 5-9-11	T Marquand	♦95
2	(16)	2/0542	**SIR THOMAS GRESHAM** 8 (D) S Durack 8-9-9	S Hitchcott	89
3	(1)	13100-	**ROLFE REMBRANDT** 329 (W,B,C,D) M Scudamore 5-9-7	J Crowley	--
4	(19)	211-44	**LEAP ABROAD** 14 (T,D) P & O Cole 4-9-7	M Tabti (7)	87
5	(11)	045-30	**DIG TWO** 25 (B,D) Ollie Sangster 4-9-7	C Bishop	88
6	(7)	50-512	**BERNARDO O'REILLY** 21 (BF,CD) R Spencer 9-9-6	James Doyle	87
7	(13)	1114-4	**TWILIGHT MADNESS** 25 (D) S Hodgson 5-9-6	J Mitchell	85
8	(17)	5-5000	**EPSOM FAITHFULL** 43 (D) P Phelan 6-9-4	P Bradley (3)	82
9	(14)	2360-5	**APLOMB** 29 (P,D) J Chapple-Hyam 7-9-3	H Doyle	79
10	(15)	-41113	**LETMELIVEMYLIFE** 30 (BF) S Curran 5-9-2	A Atzeni	49
11	(6)	0160-4	**AMAZONIAN DREAM** 19 (C,D) B Millman 4-9-1	O Murphy	64
12	(8)	40-323	**SIR OLIVER** 16 (P,D) C Dwyer 6-9-1	S Cherchi	84
13	(4)	000-06	**MAGNIFICENCE** 14 (P,T) Brian O'Rourke 5-8-10	C Hutchinson (3)	43
14	(2)	/106-3	**SHOBIZ** 15 (D) C Hills 5-8-10	W Buick	77
15	(5)	400-34	**CAPOTE'S DREAM** 15 (P,D) T Ward 6-8-10	Georgia Dobie (3)	76
16	(9)	0041-5	**TREACHEROUS** 14 (D) E De Giles 9-8-8	T Whelan	78
17	(12)	00/244	**WINDSOR PASS** 11 (BF) J Butler 5-8-6	R Ffrench	86
18	(18)	3-6461	**UNDER THE TWILIGHT** 16 (D) M Blake 5-8-6	Greg Cheyne	73
19	(3)	53-552	**SERGEANT TIBBS** 7 (CD) J Flint 5-8-5	G Rooke	73

11-2 Leap Abroad, 6-1 Bernardo O'Reilly, 10-1 Letmelivemylife, Sergeant Tibbs, Twilight Madness, Shobiz, 12-1 Aplomb, Capote's Dream, Sir Thomas Gresham, 20-1 others.

Newmarket
Rob Wright

1.30 Jabaara
2.05 Totnes (nap)
2.40 Eminency
3.15 Striking Star (nb)
3.50 Montassib
4.25 Sumo Sam
5.00 Al Barez

Going good
Draw no advantage
Racing TV

1.30 Fillies' Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £15,462: 6f) (10 runners)

1	(7)		**JABAARA** R Varian 9-2	David Egan	--
2	(4)		**LA GUARIDA** R Hannon 9-2	R Kingscote	--
3	(8)		**MAKURI** Dylan Cunha 9-2	H Burns	--
4	(6)		**MAMMY** M Bell 9-2	D McMonagle	--
5	(3)		**MISS ROBERTS** E Walker 9-2	S Osborne	--
6	(9)	0	**MOREGINPLEASE** 31 J Ryan 9-2	D Keenan	♦44
7	(5)		**OOPS** G Boughey 9-2	D Probert	--
8	(10)		**RATING** B Meehan 9-2	S M Levey	--
9	(1)		**SOUTH KENSINGTON** H Palmer 9-2	R Coakley	--
10	(2)	0	**UNION JACKIE** 31 J Chapple-Hyam 9-2	M Ghiani	42

7-4 La Guarida, 9-4 Jabaara, 6-1 Oops, 10-1 South Kensington, 12-1 Rating, Mammy, 14-1 Miss Roberts, 25-1 Union Jackie, 30-1 others.

2.05 Aspall Cyder 1728 Handicap (3-Y-O: £12,885: 1m) (11) ITV

1	(7)	11003-	**TRUE STATESMAN** 234 Charlie Johnston 9-11	R Hornby	86
2	(6)	5241-2	**ACOTANGO** 21 (D) H & R Charlton 9-10	R Kingscote	88
3	(10)	6120-	**CHELSEA GREEN** 203 H Palmer 9-10	R Coakley	86
4	(11)	553-10	**JUST BRING IT** 45 (D) C Cox 9-9	A Kirby	80
5	(1)	253-33	**GULMARG** 31 S P C Woods 9-8	H Davies (3)	89
6	(5)	22-416	**BURDETT ROAD** 31 (D) M Bell 9-7	D McMonagle	74
7	(9)	2121-5	**SHE'S HOT** 18 (T) P & O Cole 9-6	L Morris	92
8	(8)	4231-	**GOOD GRACIOUS** 207 (T) W Haggas 9-4	C Fallon	87
9	(2)	061-	**CEANNA** 151 (H) J & T Gosden 9-3	B Sayette (3)	♦94
10	(3)	0-151	**TOTNES** 16 (D) A Balding 9-0	D Probert	93
11	(4)	0-534	**YELLOW LION** 16 R Hannon 8-7	Alec Voikhansky (5)	90

3-1 Ceanna, 4-1 Acotango, 5-1 Totnes, 7-1 Gulmarg, 10-1 Burdett Road, Good Gracious, 12-1 Chelsea Green, 14-1 True Statesman, Just Bring It, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: Totnes scored in good style on her handicap debut at Lingfield Park; she can defy a 5lb rise **Dangers** Gulmarg, Good Graciuous

2.40 Aspall Suffolk Draught Cyder Handicap (3-Y-O: £25,770: 6f) (11) ITV

1	(1)	126-3	**ROGUE LIGHTNING** 60 (D) Tom Clover 9-9	L Morris	89
2	(8)	1400-0	**BRAVE NATION** 14 M Bell 9-6	D McMonagle	85
3	(3)	511-	**REVENITE** 241 (D) R Varian 9-2	David Egan	90
4	(7)	223-02	**WASHINGTON HEIGHTS** 14 K Ryan 9-1	D Probert	♦100
5	(9)	1010-	**FUNNY STORY** 231 (D) R Beckett 8-13	R Hornby	88
6	(5)	2153-4	**EMINENCY** 31 (BF,D) C Cox 8-12	J Fahy	85
7	(11)	45-111	**EXPERT AGENT** 43 (P,D) K P De Foy 8-12	R Kingscote	98
8	(2)	2221-2	**MUTAANY** 18 (BF,D) C Hills 8-11	D O'Neill	88
9	(10)	00-400	**KNEBWORTH** 10 (D) R Hughes 8-5	Ethan Jones (7)	82
10	(6)	202-	**ARARAT** 189 D M Simcock 8-3	H Turner	89
11	(4)	-36111	**QUINAULT** 2 (H,T,CD) S C Williams 8-6(6ex)	M Ghiani	94

11-4 Eminency, 10-3 Revenite, 11-2 Expert Agent, 6-1 Quinault, 8-1 Washington Heights, Mutaany, 16-1 Funny Story, 20-1 Rogue Lightning, 30-1 others.

Wright choice: Eminency did not get the clearest of runs when fourth at Kempton; he is unexposed over this trip **Dangers** Quinault, Mutaany

3.15 Aspall Premier Cru Handicap (3-Y-O: £8,100: 7f) (14) ITV

1	(5)	00-10	**BURSTOW** 70 P & O Cole 9-9	L Morris	♦93
2	(2)	10-22	**STRIKING STAR** 14 (BF,D) C Appleby 9-8	A Kirby	92
3	(10)	611-00	**THINK CLIMATE** 32 (P,D) J Chapple-Hyam 9-8	Doubtful	74
4	(12)	1-30	**POWERDRESS** 13 (C) R Hannon 9-8	S M Levey	86
5	(8)	212-0	**CHANGING COLOURS** 30 (BF) C Appleby 9-7	H Davies (3)	87
6	(11)	13502-	**JUMBEAU** 193 (BF) Tom Clover 9-7	H Turner	82
7	(1)	5135-5	**SIGNCASTLE CITY** 21 R Hannon 9-6	R Kingscote	86
8	(7)	4-1144	**BERKSHIRE PHANTOM** 52 (V,D) A Balding 9-5	D Probert	81
9	(3)	05114-	**MILE END** 195 (B) M Bell 9-4	D McMonagle	83
10	(14)	5153-6	**HAVANA BY THE SEA** 43 Craig Lidster 9-4	C Fallon	88
11	(4)	623-20	**HAVANA BLUE** 14 C Cox 9-3	J Fahy	82
12	(6)	144-36	**CHARTWELL HOUSE** 14 (D) W Knight 9-2	David Egan	82
13	(9)	41-35	**GOLDEN PASSPORT** 52 (BF,D) E Walker 9-0	S Osborne	82
14	(13)	03-2	**WALL GAME** 25 H Candy 8-11	D O'Neill	81

10-3 Striking Star, 9-2 Changing Colours, 6-1 Powerdress, 8-1 Havana Blue, 10-1 Mile End, 12-1 Golden Passport, Chartwell House, Berkshire Phantom.

Wright choice: Striking Star caught the eye when going strongly for a long way here; more to come **Dangers** Havana By The Sea, Changing Colours

3.50 Handicap (£25,770: 7f) (7)

1	(4)	020202	**WITCH HUNTER** 8 (P,D) R Hannon 4-9-12	Alec Voikhansky (5)	♦101
2	(7)	442-04	**MONTASSIB** 21 (BF,D) W Haggas 5-9-7	C Fallon	98
3	(2)	0200-2	**AIR TO AIR** 138 (T,CD) G Boughey 5-9-3	D Probert	98
4	(5)	0/1541	**THE GATEKEEPER** 15 (CD) Charlie Johnston 4-9-3	R Kingscote	94
5	(6)	2406-2	**STAR OF ORION** 15 (D) R Beckett 5-9-1	R Hornby	96
6	(3)	002-03	**PERSUASION** 15 (D) D & N Barron 6-8-10	S Osborne	86
7	(1)	-51232	**CHOLA EMPIRE** 79 (BF,D) D M Simcock 4-8-2	L Morris	85

11-4 Montassib, 4-1 The Gatekeeper, 9-2 Star Of Orion, 5-1 Air To Air, 7-1 Persuasion, 8-1 Chola Empire, 10-1 Witch Hunter.

4.25 Fillies' Novice Stakes (3-Y-O: £25,770: 1m 4f) (6)

1	(2)	1-2	**SUMO SAM** 13 (C) P & O Cole 9-8	R Kingscote	♦97
2	(5)	04-	**BARRIER** 260 A Balding 9-2	R Hornby	67
3	(6)	0-00	**CLIMATE FRIENDLY** 7 J Chapple-Hyam 9-2	D McMonagle	49
4	(3)	303-	**DIVYA** 213 E Walker 9-2	S Osborne	75
5	(4)	0-0	**MARMARA SEA** 29 J Chapple-Hyam 9-2	R Tart	57
6	(1)	5-2	**STRONG IMPACT** 15 R Varian 9-2	David Egan	75

4-7 Sumo Sam, 7-2 Strong Impact, 10-1 Barrier, 12-1 Climate Friendly, 14-1 Divya, 33-1 Marmara Sea.

5.00 Handicap (£8,100: 5f) (8)

1	(6)	055-36	**CAME FROM THE DARK** 15 (D) E Walker 7-9-11	S Osborne	♦95
2	(1)	12024-	**ANCIENT TIMES** 231 (T,D) Harry Eustace 5-9-11	H Turner	94
3	(8)	/1102-	**CELSIUS** 245 (D) Tom Clover 7-9-7	David Egan	88
4	(5)	11/1-4	**AL BAREZ** 32 Tom Clover 4-9-6	L Morris	82
5	(2)	0004-2	**SPRING BLOOM** 32 (D) R Eddery 6-9-3	D Keenan	90
6	(3)	426406	**TOLSTOY** 19 S C Williams 4-9-1	S M Levey	81
7	(7)	214-04	**ISLE OF LISMORE** 17 (D) R Cowell 5-9-1	C Fallon	85
8	(4)	603-15	**STONE CIRCLE** 19 (D) M Bell 6-8-9	R Kingscote	86

3-1 Al Barez, 7-2 Spring Bloom, 4-1 Celsius, 6-1 Ancient Times, 10-1 Came From The Dark, Tolstoy, Isle Of Lismore, 12-1 Stone Circle.

Bangor-on-Dee
Rob Wright

1.35 Waspy
2.10 Heart Of A Lion
2.45 El Borracho
3.20 Norley
3.55 The Wrekin
4.30 Rhodia
5.05 Granny Hawkins

Going: good
Sky Sports Racing

1.35 Maiden Hurdle (£3,697: 2m 1f) (8)

1	/300-	**CHURCHMAN** 24 A Ralph 5-11-4	A Edwards
2	3/31-	**LUNE DE LA MER** 33 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 6-11-4	H Brooke
3	0/6-6	**POPPOP** 14 J Stimpson 7-11-4	J A Anderson (5)
4	132F-	**WASPY** 36 (BF) D McCain 5-11-4	B Hughes
5	553-	**FADED FANTASY** 51 Christian Williams 4-10-12	N Scholfield
6		**SOBEGRAND** F182 O Murphy 4-10-12	R T Dunne
7	F200-	**ON CLOUD NINE** 42 (W,T) D McCain 5-10-11	T Gillard
8	3-0	**ONEWAY EXPRESS** 11 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 5-10-11	F Gillard (3)

6-4 Waspy, 5-2 Lune De La Mer, 3-1 Faded Fantasy, 10-1 Sobegrand, 16-1 others.

2.10 Handicap Chase (£6,337: 3m) (8)

1	05P4-	**COO STAR SIVOLA** 23 (D) V Williams 11-12-2	Shane Quinlan (3)
2	P36-P	**CAPTAIN TOMMY** 11 (P,T,D) I Williams 9-11-9	R T Dunne
3	644U-	**KABRIT** 24 (D) A Ralph 8-11-6	Ciaran Gethings
4	5423-	**LADY TREMAINE** 22 (B) D McCain 8-11-5	B Hughes
5	P/33-	**HEART OF A LION** 29 A King 8-11-3	T Cannon
6	/056-	**YOUR BAND** 24 (P) A Ralph 8-11-2	N Scholfield
7	/5PP-	**ROBIN DES FOX** 114 (P,T) O Signy 7-11-1	B R Jones
8	312P-	**OCEANS RED** 191 (P,CD) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 7-10-11	H Brooke

11-4 Oceans Red, 4-1 Lady Tremaine, 5-1 Kabrit, Heart Of A Lion, 7-1 Coo Star Sivola, 8-1 Your Band, 10-1 Captain Tommy, 20-1 Robin Des Fox.

2.45 Handicap Hurdle (£6,337: 2m 1f) (7)

1	1153-	**EL BORRACHO** F14 (T,D) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 8-12-1	W Shanahan (7)
2	111P-	**MONTE IGUELDO** 111 G Hanmer 6-11-13	R T Dunne
3	P00-0	**BAND OF OUTLAWS** 14 (V,BF) B Haslam 8-11-12	R McLernon
4	1FP6-	**ADDOSH** 45 (D) S Edmunds 5-11-11	Ciaran Gethings
5	54F0-	**JUST THE MAN** 168 J G O'Shea 7-11-8	A Wedge
6	2215-	**HIDALGO DE L'ISLE** 80 (BF,CD) D McCain 6-11-8	B Hughes
7	6220-	**COPPER BEACH** 145 Sue Smith 6-10-12	R Chapman

2-1 El Borracho, 4-1 Monte Igueldo, 5-1 Hidalgo De L'isle, 11-2 Copper Beach, 6-1 Band of Outlaws, 8-1 Just The Man, 25-1 Addosh.

3.20 Handicap Chase (£9,365: 2m 4f) (5)

1	0111-	**GABRIEL'S GETAWAY** 29 (T) A Honeyball 6-12-0	R Dingle
2	6126-	**THE PADDY PIE** 91 (D) Sue Smith 10-11-13	R Chapman
3	3311-	**NORLEY** 40 (T,D) B Pauling 8-11-12	K Brogan
4	0334-	**HEARTBREAK KID** 28 (B) D McCain 8-11-11	B Hughes
5	126-3	**GOUET DES BRUYERES** 4 (T) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 7-10-8	H Brooke

11-10 Gabriel's Getaway, 11-8 Norley, 10-1 The Paddy Pie, 14-1 Heartbreak Kid, 16-1 Gouet Des Bruyeres.

3.55 Novices' Handicap Chase (£7,393: 3m) (6)

1	3120-	**LANDEN CALLING** 31 (B,T) F O'Brien 7-12-0	P Brennan
2	21/P-	**INISHBIGGLE** 60 (T) G Hanmer 8-11-12	K Brogan
3	224-1	**FAROUK DE CHENEAU** 2 (T) A Honeyball 8-12-4(7ex)	Doubtful
4	0212-	**UNIVERSAL FOLLY** 24 N Richards 8-11-10	Sean Quinlan
5	/632-	**THE WREKIN** 24 H Daly 7-11-7	Miss A Stevens (7)
6	32/F-	**SUPERVISOR** 171 (BF) V Williams 9-10-7	N Fox (5)

5-2 The Wrekin, 11-4 Landen Calling, 3-1 Supervisor, 4-1 Universal Folly, 8-1 others..

4.30 Novices' Handicap Hurdle (£3,697: 2m 4f) (9)

1	/525-	**PASS THE LOVE ON** 42 A King 6-12-0	T Cannon
2	1320/	**KING ARISE** 475 (BF) Dr R Newland 6-11-13	C Hammond
3	24PP-	**ARMATTIEKAN** 270 (B) D McCain 9-11-11	B Hughes
4	2364-	**RHODIA** 76 Sarah Hollinshead 7-11-7	R T Dunne
5	/540-	**DEE EIRE** 99 G Hanmer 6-11-2	K Brogan
6	2210-	**LUNA DORA** 27 (BF) T Symonds 6-10-7	B Poste
7	002-6	**BALRANALD** 10 (P,T) Mrs A C Hamilton 7-10-6	J Hamilton
8	5000-	**HASHEHADHISOATSYET** 38 (P) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 5-10-5	H Brooke
9	0450-	**LOCKANDLOAD** 174 (B) H Evans 7-10-4	A Edwards

5-2 Pass The Love On, 4-1 Armattiekan, 5-1 Luna Dora, 6-1 King Arise, 8-1 Rhodia, 10-1 Hashehadhisoatsyet, Balranald, 16-1 Dee Eire, 25-1 Lockandload.

5.05 Mares' Open NH Flat Race (£2,640: 2m 1f) (11)

1		**BETTWYN** S-J Davies 5-11-2	C Leonard (5)
2	4-	**EMMA HAMILTON** 94 H Daly 5-11-2	Miss A Stevens (7)
3	3-	**QUEEN OF HINDSIGHT** 51 D McCain 5-11-2	Abbie McCain (5)
4	052-	**SUNDAY SOLDIER** 22 F O'Brien 5-11-2	P Brennan
5		**GRANNY HAWKINS** A King 4-10-10	T Cannon
6		**LATE GETAWAY** Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 4-10-10	H Brooke
7		**NOT NOW FOXY** J Coulson 4-10-10	C O'Farrell
8		**PRESENTLY** D & C Kubler 4-10-10	B Hughes
9		**ROMILEE** H Daly 4-10-10	A Wedge
10	240-	**TIQUE** 107 Seamus Mullins 4-10-10	D Sansom (3)
11	23-	**WHOZATGIRL** 168 M Scudamore 4-10-10	B Poste

11-4 Sunday Soldier, 4-1 Whozatgirl, 6-1 Granny Hawkins, 13-2 Queen Of Hindsight, 7-1 Presently, 10-1 Emma Hamilton, Romilee, 12-1 others.

Giavellotto strikes in Yorkshire Cup


MIKE EGERTON/PA
Giavellotto, centre, claimed the biggest win of his career in the Yorkshire Cup

Rob Wright

Giavellotto had to survive a stewards' inquiry before his success was confirmed in the group two Boodles Yorkshire Cup at York yesterday.

Ridden by Andrea Atzeni, Giavellotto made smooth progress to collar the front-running Quickthorn approaching the final furlong but then hung to his left, causing that rival to be snatched up and also impeding Broome, who passed the post in third. Quickthorn faded into fourth, with last year's St Leger winner Eldar Eldarov finishing fast to claim second.

The stewards decided that the interference had not effected the result, though, and Giavellotto gained the biggest win of his career. Marco Botti, his trainer, said: "He came across a little in the last furlong, he didn't interfere with the runner-up, but Andrea said he was just idling a little once he hit the front.

"He's still very lightly raced. It was a good field with the St Leger winner and Broome in there, but I thought we would be here with a chance. It's very important: it's been a couple of quiet years so to have a horse of this calibre is great. It's great for the staff at home and for the owner, who bred the horse."

Doncaster
Rob Wright

5.50 Divine Comedy
6.20 Rising Force
6.50 Almaty Star
7.20 Lady Labelle
7.50 The Green Man
8.20 Secret Guest
8.50 Streetstorm

Going straight: good; round: good to soft, good in places
Draw no advantage — **Sky Sports Racing**

5.50 Apprentice Handicap (£4,397: 1m 4f) (12)
1 (11) 4-001 **FRANCO GRASSO** 18 K Frost 5-10-0 **J Leavy (5)**
2 (4) 321-3 **DIVINE COMEDY** 21 (BF) Harry Eustace 5-9-13 **Kaiya Fraser (3)**
3 (6) 0000- **ANNANDALE** 245 I Jardine 5-9-13 **Archie Young (7)**
4 (2) -5656 **HIGHLIGHTER** 39 Gemma Tutty 4-9-13 **Laura Coughlan**
5 (12) 6-242 **YORKINDNESS** 8 (BF) Charlie Johnston 4-9-13 **J Peate**
6 (10) 0/0-2 **CLAY** 11 N King 5-9-12 **T Fisher**
7 (9) 543-0 **THE DANCING POET** 136 (D) B Ellison 7-9-11 **W Pyle (5)**
8 (1) 0-120 **CARLOS FELIX** 15 (P,BF,D) P Kirby 6-9-11 **Madi Patzelt (5)**
9 (5) 63/3- **RAQISA** J38 (B,T,D) Miss A Murphy 5-9-9 **R Kavanagh (7)**
10 (3) 021/6 **GREAT COLACI** 15 (D) G Boanas 10-9-8 **C Howarth**
11 (8) 1123- **THUNDER FLASH** J182 (BF,D) I Williams 6-9-6 **C Planas**
12 (7) 36-32 **DAS KAPITAL** 21 (P,D) J Berry 8-9-0 **L Catton**

9-2 Franco Grasso, 5-1 Divine Comedy, 6-1 Das Kapital, Yorkindness, 7-1 Highlighter, 8-1 Thunder Flash, 10-1 Carlos Felix, 12-1 Clay, 16-1 others.

6.20 Restricted Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,373: 5f) (15)
1 (5) 01 **SANKARI** 14 (D) J J Quinn 9-11 **B Garritty**
2 (6) **ASPIRE TO GLORY** Alice Haynes 9-4 **K O'Neill**
3 (13) **BIG BLUE BOY** D O'Meara 9-4 **D Nolan**
4 (14) **ECO POWER BOY** S Spencer 9-4 **Dale Swift**
5 (11) **IFONLYTHEYCUDTALK** T Easterby 9-4 **B Robinson**
6 (15) 5 **RISING FORCE** 12 (BF) J Tate 9-4 **P J McDonald**
7 (8) 0 **SEARCH** 15 J Butler 9-4 **C Shepherd**
8 (12) 2 **UNOWHO** 14 O Pears 9-4 **JP Sullivan**
9 (10) **UP THE MANOR** Jack Jones 9-4 **Dylan Hogan**
10 (1) **WANT WANT** J Chapple-Hyam 9-4 **Dayverson De Barros**
11 (9) 32 **ANFAAL** 23 (BF) Tom Clover 8-13 **R Havlin**
12 (7) **HAVANA ROSE** E Bethell 8-13 **R Dawson**
13 (4) 3 **HOORAY FOR HAZEL** 23 R Fahey 8-13 **C Murtagh**
14 (2) 0 **GRECIAN PRINCESS** 19 G Tuer 8-11 **J Fanning**
15 (3) 05 **MULLINGAR GIRL** 28 M Murphy & M Keady 8-11 **J F Egan**

9-4 Anfaal, 5-1 Rising Force, 11-2 Unowho, 6-1 Sankari, 10-1 Aspire To Glory, Hooray For Hazel, 14-1 Big Blue Boy, Havana Rose, 20-1 others.

6.50 Novice Stakes (£4,320: 6f) (12)
1 (5) 36-2 **ALMATY STAR** 33 R Varian 3-9-7 **R Dawson**
2 (10) 0- **BOXING ALEX** 281 D Loughnane 3-9-7 **P J McDonald**
3 (4) 06- **DARK KESTREL** 249 (W,T) J & T Gosden 3-9-7 **R Havlin**
4 (2) 0 **DE LA HOYA** 36 K Frost 3-9-7 **D Nolan**
5 (1) 0 **KAIDU** 94 C Cox 3-9-7 **W Cox**
6 (12) **LIL WADE** S Dixon 3-9-7 **Dale Swift**
7 (11) 22-43 **MCCAULEY'S TAVERN** 38 M Loughnane 3-9-7 **J Fanning**
8 (7) 52 **SURREY NOIR** 23 (BF) C Fellowes 3-9-7 **C Shepherd**
9 (6) 4 **WHISKEY PRIEST** 9 D Carroll 3-9-7 **Z Wheatley (5)**
10 (8) 0 **BEANIE BLUE** 16 Steph Hollinshead 3-9-2 **D Costello**
11 (9) 0-0 **KYNSA** 9 J Osborne 3-9-2 **N Currie**
12 (3) 0 **LADY CHAPEL** 16 (BF) J Ferguson 3-9-2 **D Muscutt**

4-5 Almaty Star, 4-1 McCauley's Tavern, 11-2 Surrey Noir, 10-1 Lady Chapel, 12-1 Dark Kestrel, 25-1 Whiskey Priest, 33-1 others.

7.20 Fillies' Handicap (£12,885: 1m 4f) (5)
1 (3) 2/01- **PENNYMOOR** 205 (D) J & T Gosden 5-10-2 **R Havlin**
2 (5) 100-0 **REEL ROSIE** 26 (B) E Bethell 4-9-10 **O Stammers (3)**
3 (2) 4-143 **AIMING HIGH** 91 (H,C) D M Simcock 4-9-5 **C Shepherd**
4 (1) 233-5 **LADY LABELLE** 16 A Balding 4-9-3 **W Carver (3)**
5 (4) 623-1 **GOOD MORALS** 25 (D) Charlie Johnston 3-8-2 **J Fanning**

4-5 Pennymoor, 10-3 Good Morals, 6-1 Aiming High, 8-1 Lady Labelle, 14-1 Reel Rosie.

7.50 Handicap (£5,653: 6f) (17)
1 (17) 52-30 **FARO DE SAN JUAN** 29 (B,T,D) Dylan Cunha 4-9-10 **Kyle Strydom**
2 (15) /300- **PEARLE D'OR** 252 (D) D O'Meara 4-9-10 **B Robinson**
3 (1) 030-0 **LIVE IN THE MOMENT** 20 (P) Alice Haynes 6-9-8 **K O'Neill**
4 (3) 0-010 **ROUNDHAY PARK** 10 (CD) N Tinkler 8-9-6 **F McManoman**
5 (13) 16603 **THE GREEN MAN** 19 (P,CD) Joseph Parr 4-9-6 **D Muscutt**
6 (12) 35160 **MIGHTY POWER** 47 (D) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-3 **C Shepherd**
7 (6) 00-00 **TRUE MASON** 14 (CD) D Carroll 7-9-3 **Z Wheatley (5)**
8 (4) 62163 **STREAK LIGHTNING** 15 (D) R Carr 6-9-3 **JP Sullivan**
9 (8) 310-0 **OBTAIN** 129 (W,P,T,D) Miss A Murphy 4-9-2 **J Peate (5)**
10 (2) 433-0 **SHOW ME SHOW ME** 14 (P,C) R Fahey 6-9-1 **Ethan Tindall (7)**
11 (7) -5600 **PRINCE OF BEL LIR** 48 (P,CD) Joseph Parr 5-9-1 **Alice Bond (7)**
12 (14) 15-65 **MAY BLOSSOM** 8 D O'Meara 4-9-1 **R Oliver**
13 (9) 3-121 **LITTLE MUDDY** 12 (C,D) S Spencer 7-8-13 **Dale Swift**
14 (11) -6000 **EXIGENCY** 48 (P,D) S Kirk 4-8-12 **L Keniry**
15 (5) 00-05 **ERNEST RUTHERFORD** 17 (T) T Easterby 4-8-10 **P J McDonald**
16 (16) -3540 **AS IF BY CHANCE** 14 (D) N Tinkler 5-8-8 **B McHugh**
17 (10) 50502 **LIBRA TIGER** 21 (D) E Walker 4-8-7 **J Fanning**

5-1 Little Muddy, 11-2 Libra Tiger, 6-1 Streak Lightning, 10-1 Mighty Power, Pearle D'or, The Green Man, Faro De San Juan, 12-1 others.

8.20 Handicap (3-Y-O: £5,653: 6f) (9)
1 (8) 511-6 **SPORTING HERO** 14 G Boughey 9-9 **C Shepherd**
2 (1) 551-0 **CAPTAIN CUDDLES** 29 (D) R Hannon 9-8 **J Fanning**
3 (2) 2-211 **HARRY MAGNUS** 30 (T) C Hills 9-8 **R Havlin**
4 (5) 000-5 **KING'S CROWN** 30 (P,D) Adrian Nicholls 9-6 **B McHugh**
5 (7) 310-0 **SECRET GUEST** 28 B Smart 9-2 **R Dawson**
6 (9) -6223 **OPEN MARKET** 18 K R Burke 9-1 **S Gray**
7 (4) 423- **HOVER ON THE WIND** 277 J Ferguson 9-1 **D Muscutt**
8 (6) 435- **BROTHER SEBASTIAN** 295 (BF) T Easterby 8-11 **JP Sullivan**
9 (3) 34-6 **HIGHER LAW** 14 (T) S Bowring 8-5 **Jimmy Quinn**

9-4 Harry Magnus, 9-2 Sporting Hero, 6-1 Hover On The Wind, 7-1 Brother Sebastian, Open Market, 8-1 King's Crown, 14-1 others.

8.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,768: 1m) (11)
1 (4) 60311 **GOLDEN MAVERICK** 9 (D) I Williams 10-1 **P J McDonald**
2 (7) 600- **STREETSTORM** 213 (W) E Dunlop 9-11 **R Havlin**
3 (8) 5-042 **HIDDEN CODE** 18 O Pears 9-9 **H Russell (3)**
4 (5) 40-60 **ZAFAAN** 38 K P De Foy 9-9 **W Carver (3)**
5 (9) 00-64 **LIMELIGHT** 19 (H) M Murphy & M Keady 9-7 **D Muscutt**
6 (11) 4050 **TIMEDTOPERFECTION** 51 R Fahey 9-6 **D Nolan**
7 (2) 6635- **WILDE AND DANDY** 246 (V) M Bell 9-6 **Dylan Hogan**
8 (10) 34-23 **TICKET TO ALASKA** 12 C Cox 9-6 **W Cox**
9 (3) 5-006 **LILLA CROSS** 45 C Dunnett 9-4 **J Haynes**
10 (6) 460 **BLONDELLE** 45 C Dunnett 9-4 **K O'Neill**
11 (1) -4513 **MY ROXANNE** 18 (D) B Ellison 9-3 **B Robinson**

5-4 Golden Maverick, 9-2 Ticket To Alaska, 7-1 Hidden Code, 8-1 Streetstorm, 10-1 Wilde And Dandy, My Roxanne, 20-1 Limelight, Zafaan.

Thirsk
Rob Wright

1.57 Cool Run
2.32 Lullaby Bay
3.07 Edge Of Darkness
3.42 Bay Breeze
4.17 All The King's Men
4.52 Autumn Flight
5.25 Menelaus
5.58 Forward Flight

Going: good
Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best — **Racing TV**

1.57 Maiden Fillies' Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,400: 5f) (14)
1 (7) 0 **ALFA MOONSTONE** 10 Craig Lidster 9-2 **P Hanagan**
2 (10) **AMAYRETTO** T Easterby 9-2 **D Allan**
3 (12) **BOARDROOM** G Oldroyd 9-2 **P Mulrennan**
4 (1) **COME ON IRENE** N Tinkler 9-2 **L Edmunds**
5 (14) **COOL RUN** E Bethell 9-2 **C Rodriguez**
6 (5) **DEAR MARY** T Easterby 9-2 **D Fentiman**
7 (9) 5 **LOUELLA** 14 R Fell 9-2 **S James**
8 (4) **LOVE WARS** J J Quinn 9-2 **J Hart**
9 (13) **LUNA ROUGE** S Spencer 9-2 **C Hardie**
10 (2) **MAUNA LOA** R Fahey 9-2 **Oisin Orr**
11 (3) **MISS RAINSTORM** T Waggott 9-2 **T Eaves**
12 (8) **SHEFFA** R Varian 9-2 **Jefferson Smith**
13 (11) **TALLULABELLE** D O'Meara 9-2 **Jason Watson**
14 (6) 30 **TOKYO DRIFT** 26 D Loughnane 9-2 **R Scott**

9-4 Sheffa, 4-1 Tallulabelle, 13-2 Tokyo Drift, 7-1 Alfa Moonstone, 10-1 Mauna Loa, Cool Run, 16-1 Boardroom, Louella, Love Wars, 20-1 others.

2.32 Handicap (£7,851: 5f) (11)
1 (1) 00-44 **MID WINSTER** 14 (D) P Midgley 7-9-9 **G Lee**
2 (3) 332-0 **SAMPERS SEVEN** 29 (D) M Appleby 6-9-9 **J Hart**
3 (6) 50-50 **NAVELLO** 40 (T,D) G Boughey 4-9-8 **B Curtis**
4 (4) 31062 **PAPA DON'T PREACH** 20 (D) K Frost 4-9-7 **P Mulrennan**
5 (10) 561-0 **LEODIS DREAM** 42 (CD) P Midgley 7-9-4 **Ryan Sexton (3)**
6 (9) 24-00 **LULLABY BAY** 20 (CD) K Ryan 4-9-3 **T Eaves**
7 (11) 1220/ **A PINT OF BEAR** 637 (BF,D) S Dixon 5-9-3 **P Dennis**
8 (2) 0-050 **COUNT D'ORSAY** 8 (P,D) T Easterby 7-8-11 **P Hanagan**
9 (5) 25-50 **PROSPECT** 48 (BF,C) P Midgley 5-8-6 **Joanna Mason**
10 (8) 451-0 **J R CAVAGIN** 47 (D) P Midgley 5-8-6 **C Hardie**
11 (7) 5330- **KITAAB** 294 (W) I Williams 4-8-4 **A Mullen**

4-1 Sampers Seven, 13-2 Mid Winster, 7-1 Papa Don't Preach, 15-2 Prospect, 8-1 Navello, J R Cavagin, A Pint Of Bear, 10-1 Leodis Dream, 14-1 others.

3.07 Restricted Novice Stakes (3-Y-O: £5,400: 1m 4f) (7)
1 (7) 65 **ALLO AL KHAWANEEJ** 21 Owen Burrows 9-7 **B Curtis**
2 (2) 443-6 **EDGE OF DARKNESS** 7 Charlie Johnston 9-7 **A Mullen**
3 (3) 0-336 **MOUSH** 21 Jack Channon 9-7 **C Beasley**
4 (1) 6 **CHARLI SANDS** 15 (P) E Bethell 9-2 **C Rodriguez**
5 (4) 0-0 **HOPE TO DANCE** 28 D & N Barron 9-2 **G Sanna (7)**
6 (5) 0- **O' DELLS STAR** 161 K R Burke 9-2 **S James**
7 (6) **LEAZY LINDSAY** M Harris 9-0 **G Lee**

2-1 Allo Al Khawaneej, 9-4 Moush, 5-2 Edge Of Darkness, 12-1 Charli Sands, 14-1 Leazy Lindsay, 16-1 O' Dells Star, 50-1 Hope To Dance.

3.42 Handicap (£13,500: 6f) (11)
1 (5) 50-60 **JUSTANOTHERBOTTLE** 21 (B,D) K Ryan 9-9-9 **T Eaves**
2 (6) 13024 **LORD OF THE LODGE** 43 (D) K R Burke 6-9-7 **S James**
3 (3) 04-05 **TINTO** 21 (CD) M Dods 7-9-3 **C Beasley**
4 (11) 4220- **MOJOMAKER** 268 (P) D Loughnane 4-9-1 **Laura Pearson (3)**
5 (1) -4301 **EMPEROR SPIRIT** 43 (P,T,D) R Cowell 5-9-1 **P Hanagan**
6 (10) 05-03 **RATHBONE** 21 (CD) M Herrington 7-8-12 **J Hart**
7 (7) -2052 **ABERAMA GOLD** 14 (V,BF,D) K Dalgleish 6-8-12 **B Curtis**
8 (9) 31-02 **MUSIC SOCIETY** 9 (D) T Easterby 8-8-11 **D Allan**
9 (2) 2-531 **HIYA MAITE** 20 (T,D) S Bowring 5-8-11 **L Edmunds**
10 (4) 0-012 **BAY BREEZE** 14 (D) T Easterby 4-8-10 **C Hardie**
11 (8) 35-66 **MATTICE** 20 (P,D) T Easterby 4-8-7 **D Fentiman**

11-2 Bay Breeze, 6-1 Hiya Maite, 13-2 Emperor Spirit, Lord Of The Lodge, Aberama Gold, 8-1 Rathbone, Music Society, 10-1 others.

4.17 Handicap (£13,500: 7f) (16)
1 (3) 215-5 **CARNIVAL ZAIN** 14 (CD) M Hammond 6-9-10 **A Brookes (5)**
2 (15) 11-04 **AUTUMN FESTIVAL** 14 (D) D O'Meara 4-9-10 **Jason Watson**
3 (4) 0-132 **ALL THE KING'S MEN** 15 (T,BF,D) G Boughey 5-9-8 **B Curtis**
4 (8) 45-53 **SCOTTISH SUMMIT** 21 G Harker 10-9-7 **S James**
5 (7) 401-0 **BILLYB** 14 (D) Mrs A Duffield 4-9-7 **P Hanagan**
6 (11) 3-040 **AMBER ISLAND** 70 (D) D Loughnane 6-9-5 **Laura Pearson (3)**
7 (9) 13210 **ADEB** 43 (D) R Fahey 4-9-5 **Oisin Orr**
8 (14) 605-5 **SNASH** 9 (P,C) T Easterby 5-9-4 **D Allan**
9 (10) 210-0 **DIAMONDONTHEHILL** 21 (D) M Dods 5-9-3 **C Rodriguez**
10 (2) 12-11 **THE COOKSTOWN CAFU** 17 (D) K Ryan 4-9-2 **R Scott**
11 (6) -0045 **ANOTHER BATT** 10 (CD) D & N Barron 8-9-1 **C Beasley**
12 (5) 31564 **SWISS ACE** 15 (D) R Carr 5-9-1 **P Mulrennan**
13 (12) 33-64 **DANZAN** 14 (P,CD) T Easterby 8-9-0 **S B Kirrane (3)**
14 (1) 65-0D **LIAMARTY DREAMS** 7 (D) K R Burke 4-8-13 **P-L Jamin (3)**
15 (13) 1/00- **PARK STREET** J183 Miss T Jackson 4-8-12 **G Lee**
16 (16) 2204- **OUTRUN THE STORM** 264 (BF,D) R Fahey 5-8-9 **C Hardie**

11-2 The Cookstown Cafu, 13-2 Liamarty Dreams, 7-1 Autumn Festival, All The King's Men, 8-1 Carnival Zain, 10-1 Billyb, 12-1 others.

4.52 Handicap (£3,664: 6f) (20)
1 (7) -5003 **DANDYS GOLD** 9 (P,D) R Fell 9-9-10 **B Curtis**
2 (4) 50312 **AUTUMN FLIGHT** 7 (B,E,C,D) I W McInnes 7-9-8 **P Mathers**
3 (16) -0163 **IMPRESSOR** 13 (D) Phillip Makin 6-9-7 **R Scott**
4 (2) 65-04 **YAZAMAN** 16 P Midgley 5-9-6 **G Lee**
5 (17) 60-00 **TOPTIME** 28 (CD) S Bowring 5-9-6 **C Beasley**
6 (15) 43355 **COME ON GIRL** 18 (B,D) M Appleby 6-9-5 **Joanna Mason**
7 (19) 0000- **MUSICALITY** 200 (D) M Hammond 6-9-4 **A Brookes (5)**
8 (18) -3323 **TWO SUMMERS** 5 (BF,D) A Keatley 4-9-4 **P Mulrennan**
9 (1) 2340- **QUERCUS** 234 (P,BF,D) Mrs A Duffield 6-9-2 **P Hanagan**
10 (13) 10-40 **RAINBOW RAIN** 20 (V,D) T Waggott 4-9-1 **T Eaves**
11 (11) 41325 **JENEVER** 25 (D) Jessica Macey 4-9-1 **L Edmunds**
12 (3) 0000- **ANDROMEDAS KINGDOM** 206 (P) M Appleby 5-9-1 **J Hart**
13 (9) 44300 **IRELAND'S EYE** 21 (T,V,D) D Carroll 5-9-0 **H Shaw**
14 (10) 00120 **HURT YOU NEVER** 28 (D) Adrian Nicholls 4-8-12 **Mia Nicholls (7)**
15 (12) 000-0 **POINT OF WOODS** 28 (CD) Miss T Jackson 10-8-12 **Oisin Orr**
16 (20) 50-03 **GULLANE ONE** 16 (P,T,CD) T Easterby 8-8-12 **D Allan**
17 (8) 56504 **CHEESE THE ONE** 12 (P,CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 4-8-9 **C Hardie**
18 (14) -0625 **DANZART** 7 (H,BF,D) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-8-9 **S James**
19 (5) 53400 **GOLDEN PROSPERITY** 66 T Coyle 4-8-9 **K Schofield (5)**
20 (6) 00-50 **KITTYBREWSTER** 46 Suzzanne France 4-8-9 **D Fentiman**

5-1 Two Summers, 6-1 Autumn Flight, 8-1 Dandys Gold, 10-1 Quercus, Impressor, Gullane One, 12-1 Danzart, 14-1 others.

5.25 Handicap (£4,187: 1m) (12)
1 (1) 03-60 **MOBASHR** 17 (H,D) M Appleby 5-9-11 **A Rawlinson**
2 (3) 331-5 **SHAMEKH** 19 J Ferguson 4-9-10 **T Eaves**
3 (5) 40-60 **COSMOS RAJ** 14 (D) D O'Meara 5-9-9 **Jason Watson**
4 (12) 30-00 **HE'S A GENTLEMAN** 10 (B,D) H Palmer 4-9-8 **P Hanagan**
5 (7) 400-0 **CLIFFCAKE** 48 (C,D) S Bowring 5-9-8 **L Edmunds**
6 (9) 00-00 **DEVILWALA** 14 (P,D) T Easterby 5-9-6 **J Hart**
7 (8) 0000- **EL BELLO** 221 M Walford 4-9-6 **J Garritty**
8 (11) 00011 **LITTLE JO** 8 (P,CD) Gemma Tutty 9-9-4 **R Scott**
9 (6) 5200- **ARRANMORE** 234 (W,P,D) D Sayer 6-9-3 **P Mulrennan**
10 (2) 04-04 **COPPER AND FIVE** 17 (D) R Carr 7-9-3 **Joanna Mason**
11 (10) 006-0 **MENELAUS** 49 M & D Easterby 4-8-13 **C Beasley**
12 (4) 6144- **SPARKLE IN HIS EYE** 290 (D) M Hammond 7-8-11 **A Brookes (5)**

2-1 Little Jo, 5-1 Shamekh, 15-2 Sparkle In His Eye, Copper And Five, 12-1 Cosmos Raj, Arranmore, 14-1 others.

5.58 Handicap (£4,187: 1m) (12)
1 (8) 5405- **HARTSWOOD** 208 (C,D) R Fahey 6-9-10 **Oisin Orr**
2 (5) 0-061 **CLEAR ANGEL** 20 (H,D) S Corbett 5-9-10 **G Lee**
3 (1) 0-336 **GLOBAL SPIRIT** 26 (D) R Fell 8-9-9 **J Hart**
4 (6) 0-541 **MISS BRITAIN** 24 (D) I W McInnes 4-9-8 **P Mathers**
5 (2) 31-40 **GIVE IT SOME TEDDY** 21 (CD) T Easterby 9-9-7 **D Fentiman**
6 (11) 245-1 **JACK DANIEL** 14 (CD) D Carroll 5-9-6 **H Shaw**
7 (3) 0-002 **FORWARD FLIGHT** 20 (D) K P De Foy 4-9-5 **B Curtis**
8 (4) -0043 **KING OF YORK** 12 S Dixon 4-9-4 **P Dennis**
9 (12) 30-62 **DIAMOND HAZE** 14 (CD) M Dods 5-9-3 **C Beasley**
10 (7) 6-440 **EXPLORERS WAY** 8 (P) B Ellison 4-9-1 **C Hardie**
11 (10) 53-00 **FROG AND TOAD** 20 (P,T,CD) M Walford 5-8-12 **A Mullen**
12 (9) 16-00 **MAGICAL EFFECT** 9 (B,C) R Carr 11-8-10 **S James**

9-2 Jack Daniel, 5-1 Clear Angel, 6-1 Miss Britain, 7-1 Forward Flight, 8-1 King Of York, Diamond Haze, Global Spirit, 10-1 Hartswood, 20-1 others.

Uttoxeter
Rob Wright

5.35 Harry D'Alene
6.05 Lookaway
6.35 Cap Du Nord
7.05 Doyen Breed
7.35 Miltiades
8.05 Getaman
8.35 Mount South

Going: good
Sky Sports Racing

5.35 Conditional Jockeys' Novices' Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m 7f) (10)
1 4025- **HURRICANE VICHI** 89 (W,T) M Harris 6-12-0 **B Harris (6)**
2 2260- **HARRY D'ALENE** 190 D J Jeffreys 6-11-10 **F Lambert**
3 5240- **TITANIUM BULLET** 23 (T) W Greatrex 5-11-8 **Dylan Kitts (6)**
4 5060- **SCARPERED** 22 N Henderson 6-11-4 **N F Houlihan**
5 3F20- **DANCINGONTHEEDGE** 37 (T,BF) P Nicholls 6-11-3 **F Gingell (6)**
6 00P5- **KING OTIS** 40 (W,T) Billy Aprahamian 7-11-0 **Lilly Pinchin**
7 0U4P- **SAVED BY THE RIVER** 27 Seamus Mullins 6-10-7 **Beau Morgan (3)**
8 6P32- **EATON LADY** 24 (T) G Brown 7-10-5 **Isabelle Ryder (10)**
9 PP3-2 **JACK THE FARMER** 19 (BF) N Hawke 7-10-4 **T Buckley**
10 PFP5- **LUCKELLO** 27 (P) T Vaughan 7-10-2 **Charlie Price (3)**

9-4 Jack The Farmer, 10-3 Dancingontheedge, 6-1 Eaton Lady, Hurricane Vichi, 15-2 Titanium Bullet, 8-1 Harry D'alene, 14-1 Scarpered, 25-1 others.

6.05 Novices' Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 4f) (7)
1 346-1 **LOOKAWAY** 14 (C) N King 6-11-10 **J Quinlan**
2 FP- **CARAPAZ** 28 David Dennis 5-11-3 **T Bellamy**
3 3P/3- **IDOLS'S EYE** 111 (H) M Bradstock 8-11-3 **Doubtful**
4 P- **LUCKY JO JO** 28 (P) J Groucott 7-11-3 **N F Houlihan (3)**
5 1/ **MIDNIGHT SOLDIER** 710 B Pauling 6-11-3 **H Cobden**
6 56P- **MORNING LINE** 51 N Henderson 5-11-3 **Paul O'Brien**
7 20- **OLD BEGINNINGS** 84 (W,T) F O'Brien 6-11-3 **C Brace**

4-9 Lookaway, 7-2 Midnight Soldier, 10-1 Morning Line, 16-1 Old Beginnings, 20-1 Carapaz, 66-1 others.

6.35 Handicap Chase (£6,337: 3m) (12)
1 2100- **CAP DU NORD** 28 (P,D) Christian Williams 10-12-1 **J Tudor**
2 3212- **CHAMERON** 32 (P,T) P Griffin (Ire) 10-12-0 **A P Heskin**
3 05/6- **PYM** 56 (P,T,D) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-11 **S Twiston-Davies**
4 P556- **BOTHWELL BRIDGE** 23 (P) N Henderson 8-11-10 **D Jacob**
5 212U- **STORMY FLIGHT** 40 (P) J Scott 9-11-10 **L Williams**
6 3141/ **HAWK'S WELL** 580 (P,D) E Lavelle 9-11-9 **T Bellamy**
7 1440- **I SEE YOU WELL** 42 (D) Seamus Mullins 10-11-8 **M G Nolan**
8 0603- **RISK AND ROLL** 31 (P) H Evans 9-11-8 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**
9 2P12- **SILVER IN DISGUISE** 22 (P,T,D) T Vaughan 9-11-7 **Charlie Price (3)**
10 3203/ **LANDOFSMILES** 486 (P,D) P Bowen 10-11-6 **S Bowen**
11 P5PU- **EVANDER** 22 (P,T) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 8-11-4 **Toby Wynne (5)**
12 12P5- **DARANOVA** 23 (P,D) G Hanmer 9-10-8 **J Hogan (5)**

9-2 Cap Du Nord, 5-1 Stormy Flight, Silver In Disguise, 11-2 Risk And Roll, 13-2 Chameron, 15-2 Hawk's Well, 12-1 Bothwell Bridge, 14-1 others.

7.05 Handicap Hurdle (£9,678: 2m 7f) (10)
1 PP1P- **ON THE BLIND SIDE** 31 (P,D) N Henderson 11-12-0 **D Jacob**
2 5P4-0 **SPORTING JOHN** 19 P Hobbs & J White 8-11-13 **A Coleman**
3 P/52- **ESPOIR DE ROMAY** 48 (P) K Bailey 9-11-11 **D Bass**
4 1612- **TWIG** 31 B Pauling 8-11-8 **Beau Morgan (7)**
5 2260- **GESSKILLE** 36 (P) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 7-11-6 **Toby Wynne (5)**
6 /262- **COPPER COIN** 26 (CD) M Scudamore 10-11-5 **P W Wadge (5)**
7 1224- **HILLVIEW** 185 (CD) G Hanmer 7-11-3 **S Bowen**
8 P24F- **DOYEN BREED** 22 (V,BF) A M Thomson 8-10-13 **R Mania**
9 /001- **REGARDING RUTH** 23 (P,D) L Wadham 9-10-12 **Bryony Frost**
10 P063- **UHTRED** 28 D Skelton 8-10-6 **Bridget Andrews**

4-1 Twig, 11-2 Copper Coin, 6-1 Regarding Ruth, Espoir De Romay, Uhtred, 7-1 Gesskille, 12-1 On The Blind Side, Hillview, Doyen Breed, 14-1 Sporting John.

7.35 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 2m 5f) (8)
1 1P40- **DO IT FOR THY SEN** 106 (P) Kerry Lee 9-12-2 **S Twiston-Davies**
2 20P3- **MILTIADES** 27 H Daly 7-11-13 **R Patrick**
3 1650- **HARRY DU BERLAIS** 23 (P) N Kent 6-11-11 **Paul O'Brien**
4 14P6- **FORGET YOU NOT** 34 (T) Miss J Du Plessis 8-10-11 **J Best**
5 1P/P- **GROW NASA GROW** 22 (D) P Winks 12-10-9 **J Kington**
6 P3PP- **EIGHTYTWO TEAM** 238 (P) C Ellam 7-10-8 **C J Todd**
7 P425- **DOGEM BY DESIGN** 69 (T) R Potter 6-10-7 **H Cobden**
8 /664- **HARRY THE NORSEMAN** 41 (P) C Longsdon 7-10-2 **B Roberts (7)**

2-1 Miltiades, 9-2 Harry Du Berlais, 5-1 Dogem By Design, 11-2 Harry The Norseman, Do It For Thy Sen, 10-1 Forget You Not, 16-1 others.

8.05 Novices' Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m) (12)
1 64R2- **DUSKY DAYS** 27 (D) J Snowden 6-12-0 **G Sheehan**
2 0001- **GOVERNOR GREEN** 28 A Ralph 6-11-13 **J Tidball (7)**
3 634-4 **ENTHUSED** 11 (P) James Owen 6-11-12 **Mr A Chadwick (7)**
4 0U5U- **MUTUAL RESPECT** 22 (P,T) Billy Aprahamian 7-11-12 **C J Todd**
5 40F0- **ICEMAN DENNIS** 28 (P) D McCain 5-11-7 **P J Kavanagh (5)**
6 0545- **GETAWAY TOM** 29 (P) T Lacey 5-11-4 **S Sheppard**
7 000P- **HORSE POWER** 38 F O'Brien 6-11-0 **J Hogan (5)**
8 4152- **GETAMAN** 23 (B) D J Jeffreys 10-10-12 **T Bellamy**
9 044/ **FORT NELSON** 395 S-J Davies 6-10-12 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**
10 400-6 **SASSIFIED** 14 (P) P Hobbs & J White 5-10-10 **M G Nolan**
11 5/P0- **IMPERIAL SUN** 56 (H,T) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-8 **S Twiston-Davies**
12 0000- **LOOKINGDANDY** 29 B Pauling 5-10-5 **Dylan Whelan (10)**

7-2 Getaman, 4-1 Governor Green, 6-1 Dusky Days, Imperial Sun, 8-1 Enthused, 10-1 Getaway Tom, Mutual Respect, 14-1 others.

8.35 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m 4f) (13)
1 0245- **ROCK THE HOUSE** 184 Katy Price 8-12-0 **Charlie Price (3)**
2 2034- **KILBRAINY** 22 A M Thomson 7-12-0 **R Mania**
3 4P0P- **PRISON BREAK** 28 (P,D) T Vaughan 5-11-12 **A Johns**
4 0625- **CAN'T BEAT HISTORY** 22 (T) Henry Oliver 7-11-4 **L Edwards**
5 4060- **STEAL MY SUNSHINE** 22 (P) D Skelton 6-11-3 **Bridget Andrews**
6 P25-P **THE KNOT IS TIED** 11 (D) N King 8-11-2 **Ms Laura Ward (7)**
7 1533- **ROCK ON TOMMY** 66 (B,T,C) O Murphy 8-11-1 **S Bowen**
8 03UP- **MOUNT SOUTH** 54 (BF) I Williams 6-11-0 **J Hogan (5)**
9 P02-3 **LIGHTHOUSE MILL** 11 David Dennis 6-10-11 **G Sheehan**
10 6/11- **BOOMTIME BANKER** 244 (D) D J Jeffreys 9-10-10 **T Bellamy**
11 P46-5 **IF KARL'S BERG DID** 11 (H) M Harris 8-10-8 **H Cobden**
12 3526- **REBEL ROYAL** 205 (B) B Case 10-10-5 **H Bannister**
13 02F6- **QUALITY** 29 P Hobbs & J White 4-10-2 **Sean Houlihan**

7-2 Boomtime Banker, 11-2 Lighthouse Mill, 7-1 Rock On Tommy, 8-1 Mount South, Can't Beat History, 10-1 Kilbrainy, Rock The House, 12-1 others.

Blinkered first time: Bangor-on-Dee 2.45 Band of Outlaws. **Doncaster** 8.50 Wilde And Dandy. **Doncaster** 5.50 Raqisa. 7.50 Faro De San Juan. **Thirsk** 5.25 He's A Gentleman. **Wexford** 2.15 Buttons And Bows.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Aintree
Going: good

5.20 (2m 103yd) 1, **Father Of Jazz** (Aidan Coleman, 11-10 fav); 2, Gaius (5-2); 3, Ve Day (6-1). 8 ran. 6½l, 7½l. James Owen.

5.55 (2m 3f 200yd) 1, **La Domaniale** (Jon#jo O'Neill Jr., 14-1); 2, Jemima P (20-1); 3, Captain Tom Cat (5-2 fav). 9 ran. 1½l, 9l. Jonjo O'Neill.

6.30 (2m 4f) 1, **Lune De La Mer** (Henry Brooke, 7-4); 2, Basford (5-6 fav); 3, Ismael (13-2). 4 ran. NR St Patricks Bridge. 1l 9l. O Greenall & J Guerriero.

7.05 (2m 4f) 1, **Boombawn** (Bridget Andrews, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Hang In There (6-1); 3, Soaring Glory (3-1 jt-fav). 7 ran. NR: Dallas Des Pictons. 1¼, 1¾l. D Skelton.

7.40 (3m 210yd) 1, **Kinondo Kwetu** (Jonathan England, 5-2 fav); 2, Go On Chez (15-2); 3, Lounge Lizard (3-1). 11 ran. Nk, 20l. S England.

8.15 (2m 4f) 1, **Latino Fling** (B S Hughes, 9-1); 2, Malaita (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Ile De Jersey (17-2). 6 ran. 1½l, ¾l. D McCain Jnr.

8.50 (2m 209yd) 1, **Saunton Surf** (Mr Freddie Mitchell, 3-1 fav); 2, Cadell (10-3); 3, Douglas Longbottom (17-2). 13 ran. NR: Achtung Baby. 6l, 4l. B Gibbs.

Placepot: £60.90.
Quadpot: £17.40.

Hamilton
Going: good (good to firm in places)

5.40 (5f 7yd) 1, **Jungle Mate** (S A Gray, 14-1); 2, Lieutenant Rascal (6-1); 3, Muqtahem (5-1). 7 ran. Nk, 1¼l. K A Ryan.

6.15 (5f 7yd) 1, **Mews House** (P Mathers, 13-8 fav); 2, Sharrabang (18-1); 3, Spanish Angel (3-1). 8 ran. Nk, nk. R Menzies.

6.50 (1m 1f 35yd) 1, **Arkenstaar** (Callum Rodriguez, 6-4 fav); 2, Future Times (11-1); 3, Keeponbelieving (13-2). 9 ran. 1½l, ¾l. M Dods.

7.25 (6f 6yd) 1, **Vince Lombardi** (P J McDonald, 5-1); 2, Iris Dancer (4-1); 3, Burj Malinka (10-3). 6 ran. 2¼l, 1l. Grant Tuer.

7.55 (1m 4f 15yd) 1, **Good Show** (P J McDonald, 2-1 fav); 2, Two Brothers (7-2); 3, Onesmoothoperator (14-1). 7 ran. NR: Cumulonimbus, Faylaq. Nk, ¾l. K Dalgleish.

8.26 (6f 6yd) 1, **Elladora** (Phil Dennis, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Macho Pride (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Basholo (11-2). 11 ran. NR: Henery Hawk. 2¾l, nk. K Scott.

9.00 (1m 68yd) 1, **Our Dickie** (A Mullen, 7-2 fav); 2, Perfect Soldier (11-1); 3, Willing To Please (5-1). 10 ran. 1½l, hd. I Jardine.

Placepot: £55.00.
Quadpot: £10.40.

Newbury
Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.30 (1m) 1, **Mabre** (Olivia Tubb, 12-1); 2, Greg The Great (9-1); 3, Trais Fluors (11-1). 12 ran. NR: Calonne. 1¼l, 2l. P D Evans.

2.05 (1m 2f) 1, **Mustazeed** (Hayley Turner, 11-4 fav); 2, Sweet Reward (10-1); 3, Andaleep (40-1). ; 4, Solanna (33-1). 19 ran. NR: Arthur's Realm. Sh hd, 4¼l. Harry Eustace.

2.40 (6f) 1, **Zoulu Chief** (Marco Ghiani, 150-1); 2, Baheer (5-4 fav); 3, Etihad Rail (25-1). 10 ran. 4¾l, ½l. H Main.

3.15 (7f) 1, **Good Karma** (D Muscutt, 5-1); 2, Chelsea Square (20-1); 3, Resolute Man (4-6 fav). 11 ran. NR: Fox Island. 1½l, ns. J Ferguson.

3.50 (7f) 1, **Thunder Ball** (Mohammed Tabti, 16-1); 2, Equatorial (8-11 fav); 3, Fleet Animal (13-2). 12 ran. 4l, 8l. P & O Cole.

4.20 (1m 2f) 1, **Nothing To Sea** (H Crouch, 7-1); 2, Naqeeb (8-1); 3, Tony Montana (8-11 fav). 14 ran. NR: Talisman. 2¼l, hd. R M Beckett.

4.55 (1m 2f) 1, **Greysful Storm** (Marco Ghiani, 25-1); 2, Lucky Fifteen (11-4 fav); 3, Lady Rascal (7-2); 4, Manuelito (20-1). 17 ran. 5½l, 1½l. Darryll Holland.

5.26 (1m 4f) 1, **Dashing Panther** (S Osborne 33-1); 2, Warhol (12-1); 3, Typical Women (10-1); 4, Masqool (13-2). 18 ran. NR: Crafter, Far Horizon. Ns, 3l, ½l. W Stone.

Placepot: £42.70.
Quadpot: £2.50.

Newmarket
Going: good

1.40 (6f) 1, **Epic Express** (Sophie Clements, 9-1); 2, Society Lion (4-1 fav); 3, Airshow (9-2). 10 ran. Nk, 1¼l. C A Dwyer.

2.15 (1m 2f) 1, **Davideo** (B A Curtis, 5-1); 2, Vaguely Royal (18-5); 3, Mythical Guest (100-1). 13 ran. 4¼l, 3½l. R M Beckett.

2.50 (1m 2f) 1, **Honiton** (James Doyle, 11-2); 2, Misty Dancer (9-2); 3, Qaasid (9-2). 6 ran. 1l, 1l. John & Thady Gosden.

3.25 (1m 6f) 1, **Adjuvant** (Harry Burns, 5-2 fav); 2, Pons Aelius (10-3); 3, Saratoga Gold (15-2). 9 ran. 2l, 1¾l. M L W Bell.

4.00 (1m) 1, **Quddwah** (Jamie Spencer, 2-1 fav); 2, Theatre Honours (4-1); 3, Star Ahoy (12-1). 10 ran. 2l, ¾l. Simon & Ed Crisford.

4.35 (1m) 1, **Repertoire** (J P Spencer, 11-2); 2, Fantasy Believer (12-1); 3, Canoodled (7-1). 9 ran. NR: Island Bandit. ½l, 2l. D M Simcock.

5.05 (7f) 1, **Aurora Dawn** (Hollie Doyle, 13-2); 2, Liberty Mountain (12-1); 3, Oriental Dancer (15-2). ; 4, Wadi Bani (11-1). 16 ran. 4¼, ¾l. E Walker.

Placepot: £200.90. **Quadpot: £40.00.**

York
Going: good to firm (good in places)

1.50 (5f) 1, **Got To Love A Grey** (S James, 5-2); 2, Dorothy Lawrence (9-1); 3, Gaiden (15-2). 9 ran. NR: Callianassa. ½l, ½l. K R Burke.

2.25 (7f 192yd) 1, **Sounds Of Heaven** (R P Whelan, 14-1); 2, Queen For You (4-1); 3, Silver Lady (2-1 fav). 8 ran. NR: Orchid Bloom, Urban Decay. Sh hd, nk. Mrs J Harrington.

3.00 (1m 2f 56yd) 1, **Marhaba The Champ** (W Buick, 10-1); 2, Marie's Diamond (33-1); 3, Spirit Dancer (15-2). 13 ran. Nk, ½l. K A Ryan.

3.35 (1m 5f 188yd) 1, **Giavellotto** (Andrea Atzeni, 14-1); 2, Eldar Eldarov (6-1); 3, Broome (9-4 jt-fav). 6 ran. NR: Tashkhan. ½l, 1l. M Botti.

4.10 (1m) **Mostabshir** (William Buick, 3-1); 2, Ziryab (9-2); 3, Kathab (6-4fav). 6 ran. NR: Frankie's Wish. 5l, shd. J & T Gosden.

4.45 (7f) 1, **Eligible** (Connor Beasley, 10-1); 2, Titan Rock (5-1); 3, Another Investment (18-1); 4, It Just Takes Time (4-1 fav). 20 ran. Nk, shd, ¾l. Michael & David Easterby.

5.15 (5f) 1, **Kuwait City** (Jim Crowley, 28-1); 2, Jm Jungle (18-1); 3, Redemption Time (20-1). ; 4, The Thames Boatman (8-1). 18 ran. NR: Clearpoint, Dream For Gold, Rose King, Wen Moon. ½l, 1l. J Butler.

The greatest team or one built on years of cheating?

Owen Slot
Chief Sports Writer





MATT MCNULTY/MANCHESTER CITY/GETTY IMAGES

City thrashed Real Madrid but questions still remain about payments the club allegedly made to the agent of Touré, inset

The romantic view is that it all started with the Sergio Agüero goal. You know, "Agüueeeerrro!" and the 2011-12 Premier League title. Yet really, Agüero doesn't get his moment if Yaya Touré doesn't score twice, late, in a really tense 2-0 victory at St James' Park six days earlier. Everything is connected.

Likewise, Manchester City's second Premier League title two years later is probably best known as the "Gerrard slips" title race, but City do not chase down their prey with five consecutive wins in the last weeks of that season if Touré does not win the second game of that quintet at Selhurst Park.

He was just back from injury, delivered a gorgeous cross for Edin Dzeko to put City ahead early and then, just before half-time, completed a three-man passing exchange with a left-footed shot to put City 2-0 ahead. Once again, they were on track for the title.

Touré is one of the single most influential players in City's recent history. So here are some questions we can never answer: what if Touré had never been there? What if there had been no Touré? And then, where would those two Premier League titles have finished up?

And these are not unreasonable questions because among the mass of information published in 2018 by Der Spiegel, via a cache of documents from Football Leaks, is the allegation that the Abu Dhabi United Group made secret payments of at least €4 million (about £3.4 million) to Touré's agent between 2010 and 2015.

Were these payments necessary to keep Touré at City? Well no, not according to his agent, who has denied receiving such payment. And not according to City, who responded by saying that the allegation was based on hacked emails taken out of context.

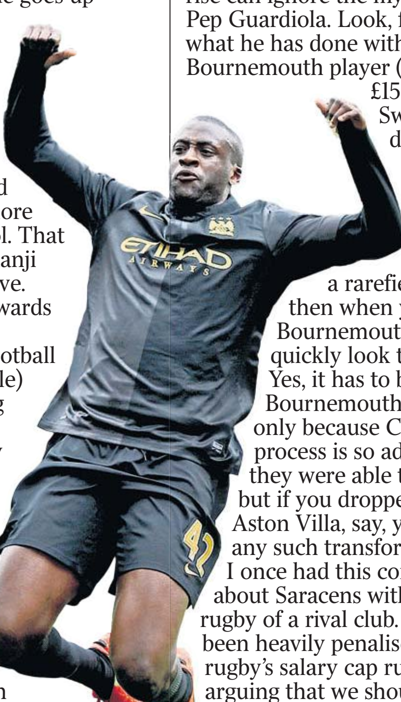
Eleven years on from City's first title, though, we don't know the truth about Touré. His situation is only one reason to doubt City's mountain of achievement — and that is one out of 115. There are 115 charges pending against the club for breaking Premier League rules.

On Wednesday night at the Etihad, as City wiped out Real Madrid and a new debate started — are City the greatest team of all time? — Touré and those early titles may have seemed like a part of ancient history. Yet you cannot separate one from the other. City don't win 4-0 on Wednesday night without Touré and Agüero and everything they achieved a decade ago. Everything is connected.

Just look at their shirt sponsorship. There is nothing that sponsors enjoy more than: a) winning titles, and b) qualifying for the Champions League. For the 2017-18 season, after six years of the Touré-Agüero team earning qualification for Europe's top tournament, the value of City's shirt sponsorship nearly doubled. Then, when they won the next two Premier League titles, it went up another 28 per cent. Over two seasons, that was a climb from £20 million to £45 million. With only two years of that and that alone, you could almost buy Aymeric Laporte.

With Financial Fair Play (FFP), your spending has to be related to what you earn. So it's hard to amass the most expensive squad in the world, which City's is, without the biggest revenue, which City's also has become. City have topped Deloitte's money league for the past two years. They were 19th in 2009, the first year of the Abu Dhabi takeover, into the top ten three years later and up to No 1 by 2021. In 12 years, their revenue had grown from £87 million to £613 million.

If you win, your value goes up — and that's in all areas, not just sponsorship. In their four most recent title-winning seasons, for instance, City's merit payments from the Premier League have amounted to nearly £15 million more than those to Liverpool. That buys you a Manuel Akanji that Liverpool can't have. Champions League rewards are far bigger. Latest modelling (from the football stats guru Swiss Ramble) shows that by reaching the final in Istanbul in three weeks' time, City will earn €126.9 million (about £110 million) in TV revenue, which is nearly €100 million more than Manchester United got for a Europa League quarter-final. That pretty much gets you Jack Grealish.



So success breeds success in football. At least it does if it is expertly managed, like at City. It doesn't if it is not (hello Paris Saint-Germain). But the simple equation is that better players help you to win more, which then allows you to earn more, which leads to even better players, better earnings, and so it goes.

The 115 charges, however, suggest that City overaccelerated the process. The broad allegation is that, to comply with FFP, they overinflated their revenue from sponsorship and underreported their costs.

When Uefa investigated City on similar grounds, its calculations were that income from sponsorship, in the four years between 2012 and 2016, had been overstated by more than £200 million. That's the cost of John Stones, Kevin De Bruyne and two Nathan Akés.

Of course, no assessment of City's rise can ignore the myriad qualities of Pep Guardiola. Look, for instance, what he has done with a Bournemouth player (Aké) or a £15 million Switzerland defender (Akanji).

Yet if you have such an elite group of players in such a rarefied environment, then when you drop in the Bournemouth player, he can quickly look transformed. Yes, it has to be the right Bournemouth player, and it is only because City's talent ID process is so advanced that they were able to identify him, but if you dropped Aké into Aston Villa, say, you wouldn't see any such transformation.

I once had this conversation about Saracens with the director of rugby of a rival club. Saracens had been heavily penalised for breaking rugby's salary cap rules, yet I was arguing that we shouldn't ignore their extraordinary record at developing world-class talent of their own. Owen Farrell, Jamie George and Maro Itoje all came through their academy. Yes, came the answer, but if you illegally construct (ie buy) an outstandingly elite group of players for these young players to grow up among, then you fast-track their learning and accelerate their development, and, if you are well-run, as Saracens are, then the cycle should be self-perpetuating.

When Guardiola was at Bayern Munich, the journalist Martí Perarnau was given unprecedented access and in the second of his books, *Pep Guardiola: The Evolution*, he notes how Guardiola would try to stay out of the dressing room before kick-off, considering his squad capable of managing their own preparation. That is smart and trusting but it is that same cycle of development: you can allow this liberty only if you have already constructed an environment so elite that your players — new players, young players — can be trusted to thrive within it.

City are in that cycle but, again, everything is connected. If you remove Touré then you remove some of the growth, and if you then remove Grealish, De Bruyne and Stones, then you certainly do not get Akanji in a Champions League semi-final demolition of Real Madrid. Everything builds.

There are no FFP charges against this present all-conquering City side, but there are plenty against the City sides that got them to this point. So when you are admiring them as they destroy the European champions on Wednesday night, how can you not question the validity of the spectacle?

Just imagine being one of those City players. You have given the prime of your athletic career to this club and you are playing for either one of greatest teams of all time or one of the greatest cheats. One or other will be your legacy, or arguably both — but you'd want to know, wouldn't you?

Which brings us to the story in The Times this week, which suggested that, actually, City don't want anyone to know. The story was about City taking legal action to challenge the way that the Premier League can investigate their finances. This is the same City who contest every one of the 115 charges. The best way to do that would be to offer open access to their accounts. In fact, they have a long record of exactly the opposite.

Three months ago, when those 115 charges were revealed, City responded with a statement saying that "the club welcomes the review of this matter" and "we look forward to this matter being put to rest once and for all". And yes, that may be PR for you, but it was also the most preposterous piece of bullshit — especially when you consider that among the 115 changes were 30 counts of failing to co-operate with the inquiry. Yes, the very investigation they are hoping to put to rest.

The Premier League was so frustrated with City's delaying tactics that it went to the Court of Appeal two years ago, accusing the club of "making as many procedural applications and complaints as it possibly can to slow the day when it will actually have to provide the information".

What is the endgame here? One solution put to me was a 15-point deduction for City for next season. Just imagine how much fun that would be: the 2023-24 season would be like a handicapped event and possibly one of the greatest title races.

Another is that City beat all 115 charges and allow their audience the pleasure of proper unadulterated enjoyment of what it is that they have created.

The third is where we are now, locked in a kind of purgatory. Informed opinion suggests it may be two years before there is a conclusion to the case. That's two years of a football team absolutely at the peak, at a summit that maybe no one has reached before, an unprecedented spectacle, and still not knowing exactly what it is that Touré started and how it is going to finish.*

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Saturday May 20 2023

saturday review



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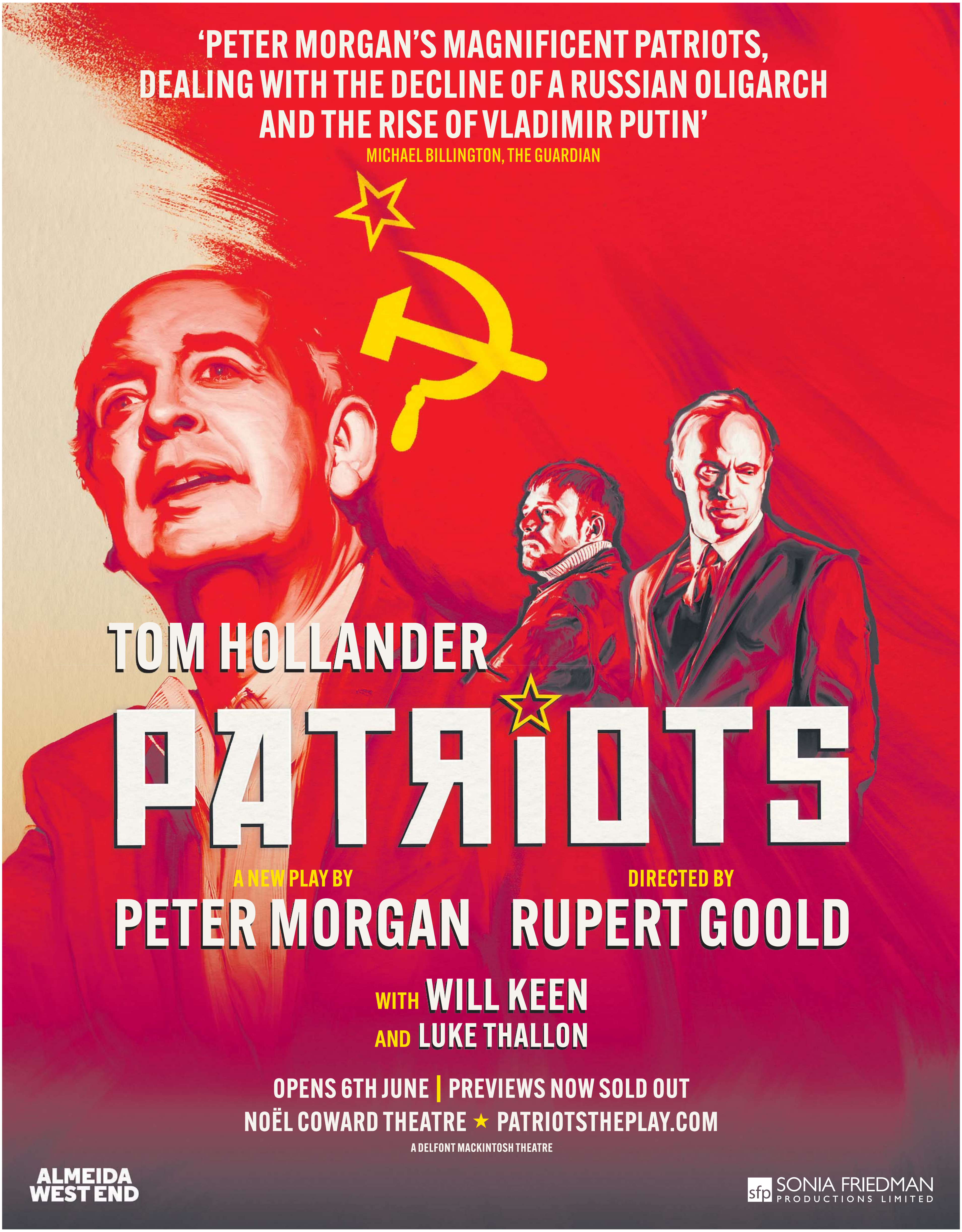
House of love
The French nest of Max Ernst and Leonora Carrington



Bill and Will's great adventure

Bill Wyman takes Will Hodgkinson on a rock'n'roll walking tour of Chelsea

art | books | theatre | film | music | television | what's on | puzzles


'PETER MORGAN'S MAGNIFICENT PATRIOTS, DEALING WITH THE DECLINE OF A RUSSIAN OLIGARCH AND THE RISE OF VLADIMIR PUTIN'
MICHAEL BILLINGTON, THE GUARDIAN
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What the critics are watching and listening to



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Cover photograph
Ki Price for The Times

Film

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret
Bras, menstruation and comparative religious studies are on the menu in this deeply lovely adaptation of the Judy Blume novel from 1970. Abby Ryder Fortson (*Ant-Man*) is a revelation as 11-year-old Margaret Simon, a New Yorker dragged to suburban New Jersey just as she's on the brink of "womanhood". A new school clique and the bullying of the alpha female Nancy Wheeler (Elle Graham) exacerbate Margaret's desire to embrace full-blown puberty — cue chants of "I must, I must, increase my bust." It's nimbly directed by Kelly Fremon Craig with a heavy hand of wholesomeness. But Fortson saves the day in a star-making turn. *In cinemas*
Kevin Maher

Kathy Bates and Abby Ryder Fortson in the film Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret. Below: Empress Dowager Cixi's robe at the British Museum, London

Theatre

Operation Mincemeat
The bravura musical has moved to the West End without losing its sense of mischief. James Bond fans will enjoy the cheeky references to Ian Fleming in this madcap re-creation of the real-life Second World War British intelligence operation designed to pull the wool over the eyes of German commanders. It's brilliantly choreographed and crammed with ingenious jokes. *Fortune Theatre, London WC2 (operationmincemeat.com), to Aug 19*
Clive Davis

Classical

Alice Coote/Elaine Mitchener
Two unmissable divas doing extremely diva things. The mezzo Alice Coote has called her programme on Wednesday with Julius Drake *The Rebellious Recital*. It encompasses Wagner, Elvis Costello, Elgar and David Bowie. On Friday, the unclassifiable vocalist Elaine Mitchener becomes only the second woman, and the first in the UK, to perform Peter Maxwell Davies's *Eight Songs for a Mad King*. *Wigmore Hall, London W1 (wigmore-hall.org.uk)*
Neil Fisher

Comedy

Ivo Graham: My Future My Clutter
He's a newly famous face thanks to Channel 4's *Taskmaster*, but Ivo Graham has been slowly building an impressive, often hilarious sequence of shows that delight in self-deprecation. This latest one, first seen at the Edinburgh Fringe last summer, has fun with the indignities of his early thirties, including stag dos, dates, ill-fated attempts to act blokish, playing Wordle in nightclubs and — here's maturity — meeting his ex's new partner for a beer to discuss step-parenting boundaries. *Norden Farm, Maidenhead, Tue; Festival Centre, Market Drayton, Thu; Atkinson Studio, Southport, Fri; touring to Jun 22 (ivograham.com)*
Dominic Maxwell

Dance

Requiem: Journeys of the Soul
Phoenix Dance Theatre joins forces with Opera North and South African partners Jazzart Dance Theatre and Cape Town Opera in a double bill reimagining Mozart's Requiem through the lens of South African cultural traditions. Dane Hurst has choreographed the ensembles from both dance companies in "an intensely emotional response to the grief experienced by so many around the world during the pandemic". *Grand Theatre, Leeds (phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk), Fri to Jun 4*
Debra Craine

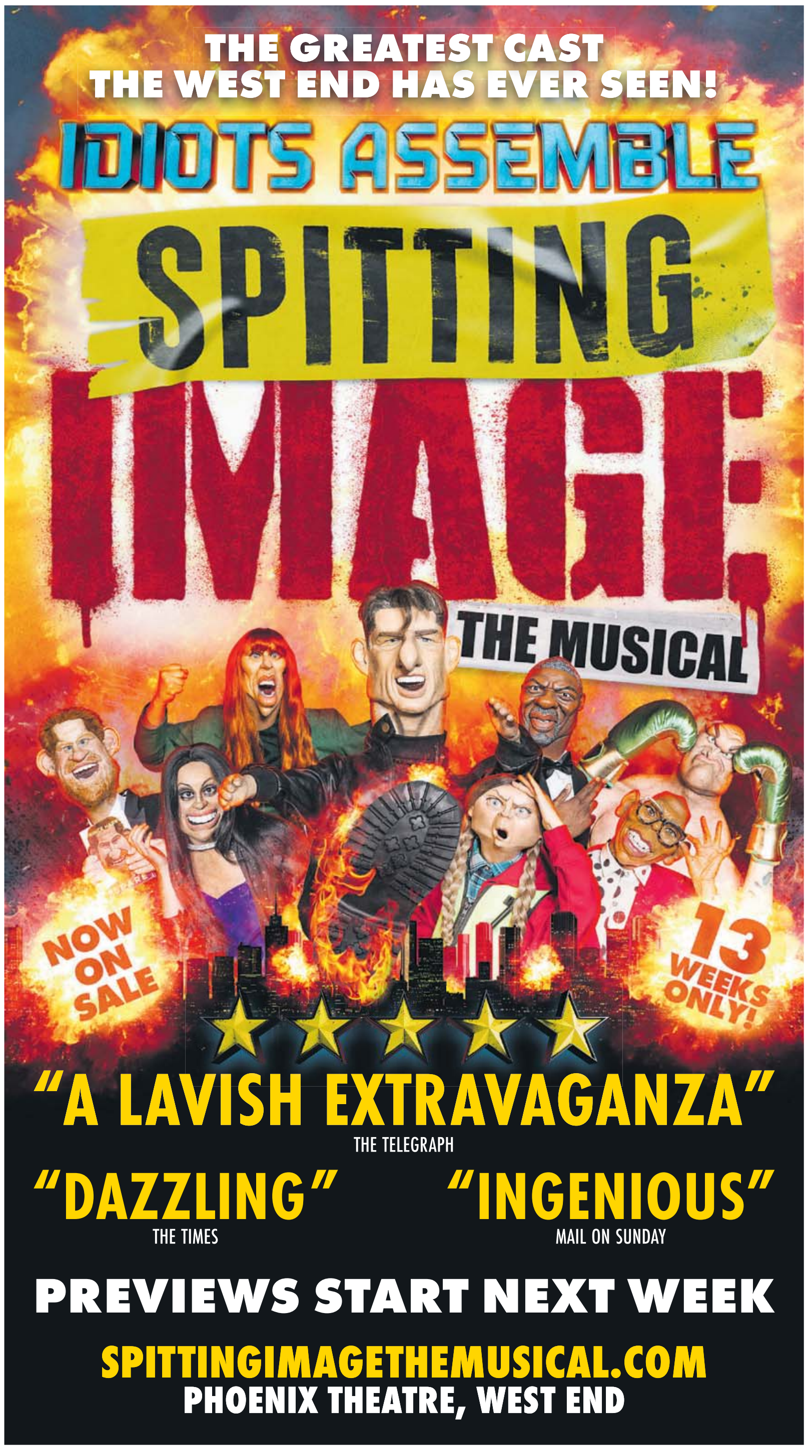
Pop

Harry Styles
It is the most successful transition from chirpy boy band member to cool solo star since Michael Jackson (not that he makes the ideal role model). Rather than do sexy R&B or bad-boy rap, like most former boy band singers, Harry Styles opted for tasteful, arty pop with nostalgic overtones. He has managed the impossible: to be an old-fashioned pin-up and have artistic credibility. Now he is playing his biggest UK shows to date. *Building Society Arena, Coventry, Mon & Tue; Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, Fri (hstyles.co.uk)*
Will Hodgkinson

Visual art



China's Hidden Century
Six emperors and one empress presided over China's "long 19th century", from the accession of Jiaqing in 1796 to the abdication of Puyi in 1912. It was a period of turmoil and staggering creativity. Three hundred objects tell the story. Sumptuous, embroidered court robes are a highlight. Gardeners will admire the brush paintings of flowers and their ink insects. Don't miss the portrait of Queen Victoria's pekinese, looted from the Old Summer Palace near Beijing and named (what else?) Looty. *British Museum (britishmuseum.org), to Oct 8*
Laura Freeman



cover story

‘Not for a second have I regretted







The rock star Bill Wyman, 86, looks back on his ‘bizarre life’ as he takes Will Hodgkinson on a stroll round Chelsea, his Sixties stamping ground, present home and the subject of his new book

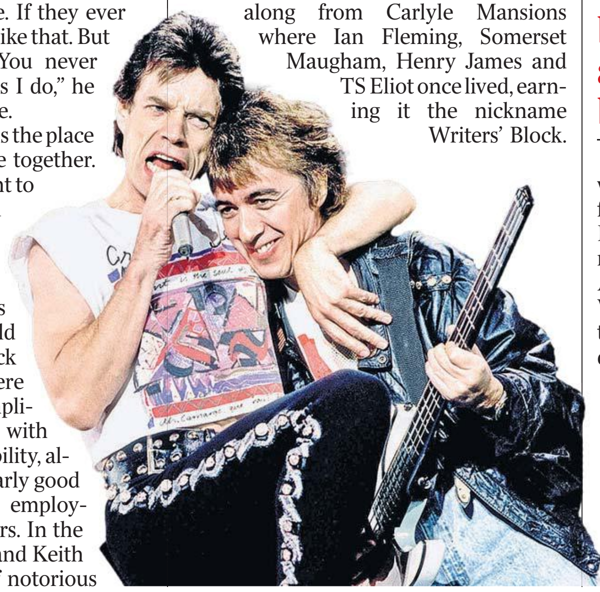
‘Here is the memorial to Sir Thomas More,” says the 86-year-old local history expert who is taking me on a walking tour of Chelsea, the southwest London neighbourhood that has been attracting famous people since the 1600s. We are standing by More’s statue outside Chelsea Old Church, where Henry VIII’s lord chancellor worshipped before achieving the Tudor equivalent of a rock star death: a beheading at Tower Hill. “Thomas More is one of my heroes, even though I’m Protestant. He stood by his beliefs, didn’t agree to Henry VIII’s divorce, and it cost him his life.”

The surprise in all this is that my quietly spoken tour guide is Bill Wyman, who stuck to his own beliefs enough to leave the Rolling Stones in 1993. He didn’t get beheaded for it, just removed from the inner circle. We’re here because Wyman has completed *Bill Wyman’s Chelsea*, a labour of love that covers the area’s history and its many famous inhabitants, with everything from manholes to door knockers documented and photographed by Wyman along the way. The bassist was always known as the archivist of the Rolling Stones — he has published three books on the band, alongside ones on metal detecting and the history of the blues — so his latest endeavour is not out of keeping with his character.

STREET SIGHTING MAN
Bill Wyman in Chelsea. Above right: with Mick Jagger, Brian Jones, Keith Richards and Charlie Watts of the Rolling Stones in 1964. Right: on stage with Jagger in 1989

“I moved here in 1982 and wouldn’t live anywhere else,” Wyman says, walking with a stick towards a statue of Thomas Carlyle, the Victorian essayist who wrote the definitive account of the French Revolution. “I love that statue. If they ever make one of me I want it like that. But it will never happen.” You never know, I tell him. “Oh, yes I do,” he says, with a bitter chuckle.

Chelsea, Wyman says, is the place where his old band came together. In December 1962 he went to a pub on the Kings Road called the Wetherby Arms to audition for an unknown blues outfit called the Rollin’ Stones and got the job. A long-held rumour has it that Mick Jagger and Brian Jones were more interested in the amplifier the bassist lugged in with him than in his playing ability, although the latter was clearly good enough to keep him in employment for the next 30 years. In the early days Jagger, Jones and Keith Richards shared a flat of notorious squalor down the road at Edith Grove, before the ever-canny Jagger bought a house on Cheyne Walk, opposite the Thames, for the princely sum of £50,000, in 1968. All of this makes Wyman’s Chelsea not only historical, but personal.



“This is where Henry VIII’s manor house was,” Wyman says as we enter a cobbled street called Cheyne Mews, just along from Carlyle Mansions where Ian Fleming, Somerset Maugham, Henry James and TS Eliot once lived, earning it the nickname Writers’ Block.

“Henry VIII stayed with Thomas More for a bit and liked Chelsea so much he decided to build his own manor here.” Down the road is a plaque to Scott of the Antarctic. “Another hero of mine. He gave his life to exploring, to achieve something nobody had done before.”

‘Brian Jones had his bad side — he’d stub a cigarette out on the back of your hand’

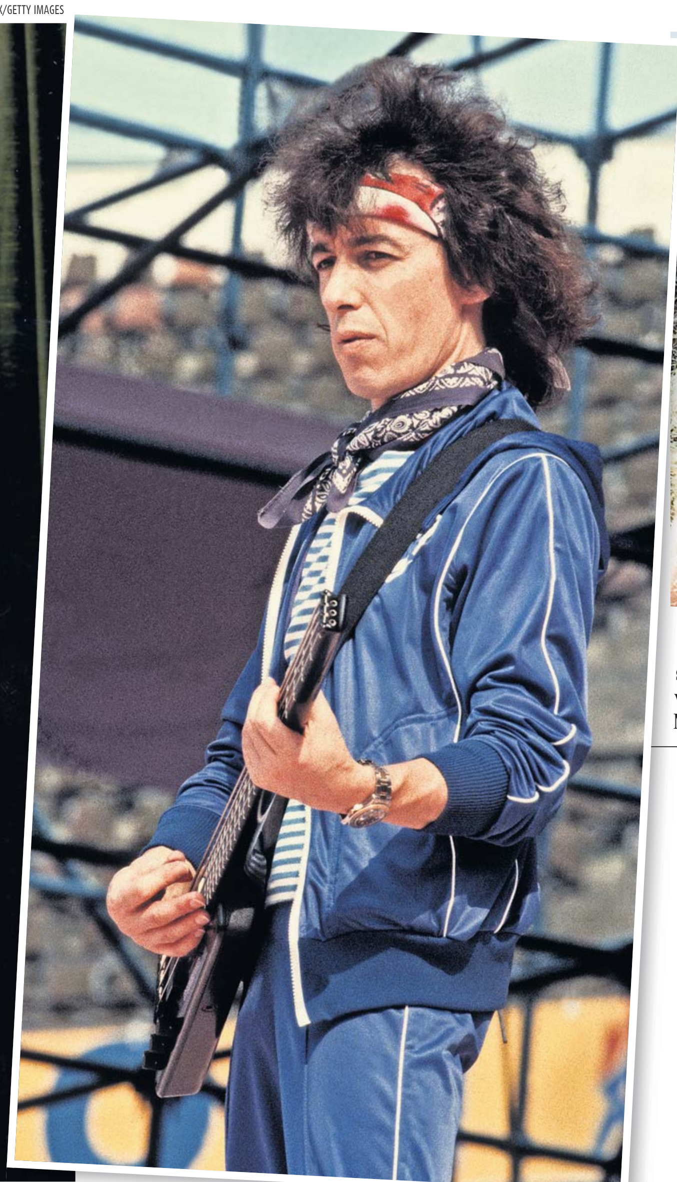
Chelsea was home to a few villains as well as heroes. On Flood Street is the former home of William Joyce, aka Lord Haw-Haw, who fled to Germany in 1939 to make Nazi propaganda radio broadcasts. After being captured he was hanged in Wandsworth prison on January 3, 1946, the last person in Britain to be sentenced to death for treason. “He would make speeches in Sloane Square about how terrible Churchill was and how great Hitler was,” Wyman says. “It’s one person after another round here.”

On a wall in a little park by the Thames called Roper’s Gardens is a map that Wyman helped to put together. It lists the former homes of every famous resident for the past 600 years or so; Isambard

leaving the Rolling Stones'

KI PRICE FOR THE TIMES; MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES, ROB VERHORST, MIRRORPIX/GETTY IMAGES







FIRST BASS Left: on stage in 1982. Above: with his second wife, Mandy Smith, in 1989

Kingdom Brunel, Sylvia Pankhurst, Dante Rossetti, Keith Richards and Anita Pallenberg all lived on Cheyne Walk alone. Incredibly detailed, it has all the hallmarks of Wyman's completism.

"I have to do it that way. It has to be perfect, or at least as perfect as I can get it. I might be autistic. I'm OCD, definitely. I'll be in the middle of an important meeting when I have to get up and straighten a painting. Charlie Watts was the same."

Wyman has a solo album coming out soon, and another book in the works, and you wonder where this endless drive comes from, given that he is four years short of 90 and very rich indeed. He says he got it from reading about Leonardo da Vinci in the early Sixties.

"To be 5 per cent of what he was — that's my ambition. He invented prototypes of the helicopter, all types of submarines, he did sculpture, painting… From there I would read books on ancient cultures, visit observatories and do archaeology. I found a Roman site in Suffolk. I scored a hat-trick at a celebrity cricket match at the Oval. Things just seem to happen to me, this ordinary kid from southeast London. I have the most bizarre life."

None of these interests go particularly well with the image of the Stones as the most dissolutely glamorous rock'n'rollers of them all. Wyman was notorious for his promiscuity in the Sixties and Seventies and caused a scandal of his own when he married 18-year-old Mandy Smith in 1989, when he was 52. But he never fell for druggy excess like Jones or Richards. That's why, Wyman says, he left the band after 32 years: because there was so much else he wanted to do.

"When the Rolling Stones started, none of us thought it would last for more than two or three years," he says.

"The Beatles were the same. We all thought it would be a brief adventure before we got on with our normal lives. Then it went on, and on, and on, and there was never time to do anything else. I had to do a solo album in bits between four-month tours, and as Charlie Watts said, being in the Rolling Stones meant five years of work and 20 years of hanging around. Eventually I left and wrote 11 books, formed my own band, did archaeology, photography…"

We pop into a smart, pretty pub called the Phene, where George Best liked to drink his health and talent away. Wyman reminisces on the mid-Sixties days when he left behind his working-class childhood as the son of a bricklayer in Penge, southeast London, to go shopping with Jones at groovy Kings Road boutiques like Granny Takes a Trip, Hung On You and Dandie Fashions. The last shop was run by the Guinness heir Tara Browne, whose death in a car accident inspired the opening line to the Beatles' *A Day in the Life*.

The Chelsea Drugstore, a three-floor swinging hotspot filled with bars, boutiques, a record store that featured in *A Clockwork Orange* and a pharmacy that was immortalised by Jagger's mention of it in *You Can't Always Get What You Want*, is now a McDonalds.

"Brian Jones had his bad side — he'd stub a cigarette out on the back of your hand and then apologise profusely — but he was incredibly inventive," Wyman says of the Stones' original leader. "He could pick up any instrument and do something with it, which embellished all the songs. And it was Brian's flat on Edith Grove that Mick and Keith first moved into."

Wyman says one of the reasons the Stones became associated with Chelsea and with suburban venues on the edges of London like the Station Hotel in Richmond and the Eel Pie Island Hotel in Twickenham, was that in the early Sixties they were not welcome in Soho.

"We only went to the suburbs because we were banned from everywhere in central London. The jazz crowd didn't want us around because we were going down more popular than they were, so we rehearsed in a room above the Wetherby Arms and played at all these places on the outskirts."

'We thought the Stones would be a brief adventure before we got on with our normal lives. Then it went on, and on, and on'

In time, Wyman became embedded into Chelsea's celebrity milieu. He would go for lunch with Michael Caine at Leonardo's, formerly on the Kings Road, opposite Sex, Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood's ground-zero shop for punk rock fashion ("I never saw any talent in punk beyond learning how to spit").

More recently he went to Colbert restaurant on Sloane Square and bumped into Twiggy. "It's a great place, Chelsea. I never get bored here. I used to get bored in the suburbs."

What does a typical day consist of? Wyman says he begins with a banana, a bunch of tablets and a cup of tea, and spends the morning working on whatever project he is involved in.

After lunch he'll go for a walk, "With my stick, down to the church. I'll sit in there for ten minutes or so because it is one of the most beautiful churches in Britain, filled with the tombs of all the people who the streets are named after. I'll walk along the river, take photographs of the geese, and go home and carry on until dinner. I'll watch *Columbo*, *Poirot*, *Midsomer Murders*… and then I'll go to bed."

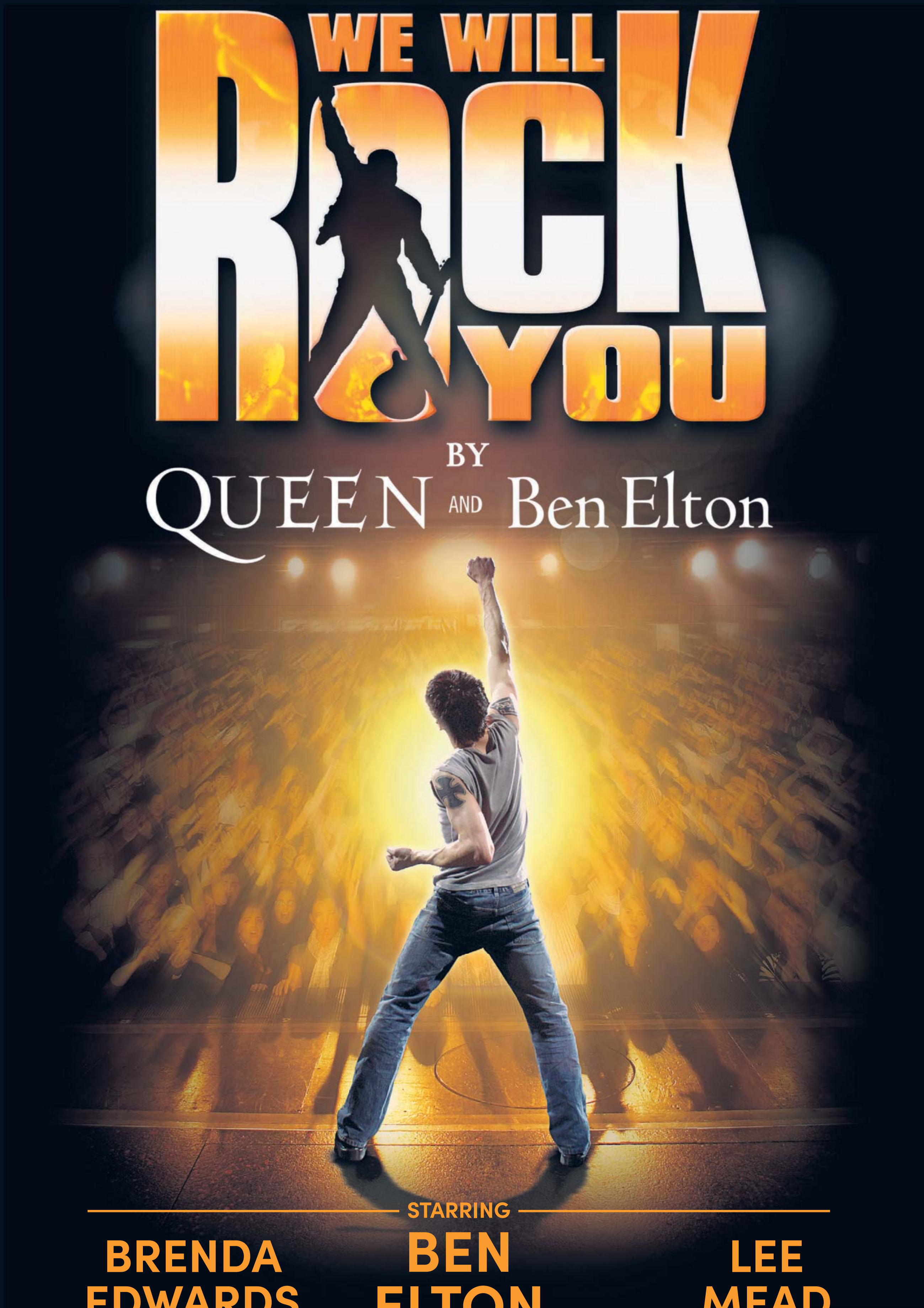
It sounds like a civilised way to spend one's eighties, but I can't help but wonder if Wyman ever misses being in the greatest rock'n'roll band. "Not for a second have I regretted leaving," he claims. "Within two years of leaving the Stones I was married to Suzanne [Accosta, 52]. We've been married for 30 years, we have three beautiful daughters, it couldn't be better."

Is he still in touch with his old bandmates? "Charlie Watts was my closest friend and he's gone now, but I see Mick occasionally because my wife is best friends with Jerry Hall. Mick and Keith and I send each other Christmas cards. I don't have much to do with Ronnie [Wood]. Honestly, though, my life is open now in a way that it never was before."

It certainly is, and if he ever gets tired of recording solo albums, discovering archaeological sites and writing books, a great future as a Chelsea tour guide awaits the former bassist of the Rolling Stones.

***Bill Wyman's Chelsea: From Medieval Village to Cultural Capital* (Unicorn £16.99) is published on May 30. Order a copy at timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount available for Times+ members**

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It's like a really shabby Butlin's — but with massive spiders

Ten Pound Poms
BBC1
Steeltown Murders
BBC1
Rolf Harris: Hiding in Plain Sight
ITVX

I have never been to Australia, but I did go to Earls Court in London a couple of times in the mid-2000s and the people seemed a cheery sort. At the time, I did wonder whether their exuberance had something to do with their having fled a land where even the weevils can kill you with a single mandible, but everybody I know who has been to Australia says it's actually rather lovely. Some who go there, indeed, seem to like it so much that they stay there. Or maybe that's just what we get told, because they have been eaten by a wombat.

Ten Pound Poms, anyway, is the story of working-class Brits who emigrated to Australia in the 1950s on £10 steamer boat tickets. We learn that in search of a better life, and having expected lovely spacious suburban houses despite not even having seen *Neighbours* yet, they instead found themselves living in corrugated-iron barracks more reminiscent of a prison camp. What's more, they were confronted daily with the vile anti-indigenous racism of the local white people. Which, given that they had just left the tolerant multi-ethnic paradise of, um, 1950s Britain, obviously came as a terrible shock.

Foremost among the stories here is that of Terry (Warren Brown) and Annie (Faye Marsay), a couple from Stockport. Terry has horrific shellshock after being bombed as a PoW in Dresden. Struggling in Blighty thanks to his subsequent alcoholism, they think Australia will be a fresh start, perhaps because they haven't seen those Castlemaine XXXX advertisements yet either.

On the boat they meet Kate (Michelle Keegan), who has abandoned her fiancé back home to seek out her child, taken against her will and put up for adoption. Once in the camp, which is just outside Sydney, they find themselves amid people of all nationalities and Australians too. It's sort of like a really shabby Butlin's, but with massive spiders.

Terry's plot is the most dramatic. Early in his construction job, he's picked on by Dean (David Field), an Aussie who resents the Pom influx. They brawl but then make friends, even though Dean is so Australian that he gets drunk enough at family barbecues to punch his own dog unconscious.

After an evening in the local boozer he tells Terry that "you've never seen the real 'Straylia till you've driven the dirt roads at night!" and Terry is alas too pissed to retort that presumably you can't actually see much in such circumstances due to the aforementioned "night" bit. So off they go, and they knock down a kid from the local Aboriginal community. Terry is tortured with guilt. Cue consequences.

Kate is trying to find her kid and Annie has landed a job in a local department store. Children are growing up and running wild, although all that is so far a bit undeveloped. We also have the Australian camp boss JJ (Stephen Curry) and the failing marriage of a British couple (Leon Ford and Emma Hamilton). Bill has middle-class pretensions, as a decent camp villain ought. She, meanwhile, is referred to by everybody as "Sheila" and it's a shock to realise this is actually her name. Maybe that's why she wants to go home.

All of this is quite good, but a bit loose. Even a few episodes in, it's still not clear whether the Brits are on the way up or down, or whether the Australians are boorish villains or refreshingly unpretentious. At times you can feel a clear urge on the part of the scriptwriters to make the whole thing a parable of feminist and racial progress, but they are obviously hamstrung in this respect by having to end up still being in 1950s Australia. At its best this feels like nuance, but more often it feels as if they just haven't quite nailed it down yet. It would also be nice to see a few more kangaroos.

JOHN PLATT/BBC



FRESH START? **Hattie Hook, Faye Marsay and Warren Brown in Ten Pound Poms**

***Steeltown Murders* is very well done, but** the heavy noir filming can sometimes make it hard to see what's going on. We're in and around the labouring town of Port Talbot, Wales, sometimes in the 1970s and sometimes the early 2000s. Not quite enough is made of how little has changed between the two. Our lead cop, DCI Paul Bethell, is played sometimes by Philip Glenister and sometimes by Scott Arthur, depending on the decade.

True crime, this is the story of the Saturday Night Strangler, a serial killer who raped and murdered numerous victims in the mid-1970s. Without giving too much away, it took 30 years for the police to use DNA evidence to establish that his victims had a common killer. Thereafter, they conducted a huge number of DNA tests of locals to figure out who he was. Or, as it turned out, had been.

Dual timeframe narratives are always risky, because it can be hard to figure out who is who. Moustaches definitely help here. There's also something inevitably frustrating about the 1970s sequences, because you know how fruitless they are going to be. It's all very evocative and filmic, hardly feeling like cosplay at all. Pubs are gloomy, offices flicker, mud cakes the white heels of platform boots in the woods. The Welsh accents, meanwhile, are generally pretty strong, with various people clearly having spent a lot of time practising how to say "Llandarcy".

As with so much true crime, though, I found myself wondering what it was all for. I know I've said it before, but we see so many murdered girls on our screens that there does have to be a reason, and particularly when we're talking about real lives. Beyond the horror and tragedy, the point of this story is surely the huge community DNA effort carried out in the modern day. Having not quite got there yet I'm not clear what this story is giving me, well done or not, that fiction couldn't have done just as well.

Dean is so Australian that he gets drunk enough at barbecues to punch his own dog unconscious

I interviewed Rolf Harris once. I went to his house in Bray, Berkshire, and met his family and his dog and his PR, and drank his tea, and at the end his driver crammed us all into a tiny car, dog across our laps, and took me back to the station. This was in 2010, three years before he was first arrested, and I can't pretend I detected signs of malice.

In retrospect, I suppose there was the odd detail that I could shoehorn into a subsequent pretence that I did, such as the story his wife, Alwen, told me about him picking her up at a party, before they were together, and running across the room carrying her while she screamed at him to put her down.

But no, I didn't come away thinking him sinister. I thought him crazy. Endearing, yes — Rolf Actual Harris! The *Cartoon Club* guy — but also, oof, off the charts. Proper live-in-a-shack-on-the-beach, scream-on-buses doolally, with no real grasp of what had happened in his life or why. But in showbiz, that's not so unusual. Some people, you just know, were never going to manage normal lives. Fame literally keeps them off the streets.

Rolf Harris: Hiding in Plain Sight was a properly disturbing watch, and I expect that's true even if you have never had your thigh pressed against his in a car. Harris was loved and venerated by generations, and not despite his peculiarity but because of it. He performed at the Jubilee and Glastonbury, and painted Queen Elizabeth II. At the Baftas the nation's glitterati fondly beamed.

Yet it was also because of that oddness, perhaps, that he was so often given a pass. His driver, Bear — maybe the driver I met, no idea — spoke of driving him past a pair of schoolgirls once, and hearing Britain's favourite eccentric uncle say: "Jesus, couldn't you just f*** the pair of them?" Bear challenged him over it, but, as he said, he didn't actually want to know too much more.

There was a lot more. Victim after victim spoke here of wandering hands and groin hugs. All in plain sight. "He would do things," Bear said, "that I was told was just Rolf being Rolf." But there was deeper and darker. Central was the woman who became known as "Victim A", whom Harris had groomed and sexually abused from the age of 13 and then well into adulthood. As police interviewed him, he sang *Sun Arise* at them, as if to remind them who he was. Or maybe to remind himself.

It doesn't seem sustainable to suggest that nobody else knew. His son-in-law, for example, had taken steps to keep him away from his own grandchild. Many, many others came forward. One of the assault charges involved a woman, Lin Berwick, who met Harris in 1977 and was blind and had cerebral palsy. Harris was not found guilty in that case, but her descriptions do sound an awful lot like everybody else's.

This documentary gave you all the horrible detail. What it didn't manage to do, though, perhaps because no documentary could, was pinpoint how and why it had all been able to happen. One thinks, inevitably, of Jimmy Savile, whose posthumous disgrace sparked the Yewtree investigations that would snare Harris too. Perhaps it was the same otherworldliness that had sheltered him. In retrospect, of course it looks creepy. Nothing could look more creepy. But at the time?

Maybe there's something a bit different here from the Harvey Weinsteins of the world, the predators who use celebrity as a shield. With Harris, with Savile, perhaps it was worse than that. Their celebrity let us see it all but tell ourselves we were seeing something else.

visual art

Inside the French love nest of Leonora Carrington and Max Ernst

Joanna Moorhead, a cousin of Carrington, visits a remote cottage in the south of France crammed with surrealist art, testament to the time the pair lived, loved and painted there



Somewhere north of Marseilles, not far from the white chalk-cliffed banks of the River Ardèche, sits a farmhouse crammed with unseen treasures of 20th-century art. Quirky monster figures in bas-relief on the walls; intriguing paintings on doors; cupboard doors adorned with creatures that might be women or might be horses; an exquisite mosaic of a bat adorning the basement floor. The work is by two of the biggest names in surrealism: any curator would give their right arm, or lobster telephone, or melting clock, to get in here. But they can't: the house is not open to outsiders, and there are no plans to change that. More than 80 years after the artists who transformed this house closed its door for the final time, the place has pretty much remained in aspic; initially unknown to the art world, then ignored by it, and latterly a tantalising but inaccessible trove.

The nearest village is called Saint-Martin-d'Ardèche, although the exact location of the house cannot be revealed as the owner fears a stampede of art lovers if he gives too much away. But he has been a fierce custodian of the work it contains, and he cares a great deal about the legacy of the artists who lived here, even though by the time his family moved in they were long gone and far away. The pair had spent perhaps the most prolific and important period of their respective lives in this remote and idyllic spot, with hens clucking in the garden and vineyards laid out into the distance from the terrace. Neither of them would ever forget this place, and the months they spent here would inspire their work many decades later.

The artists in question were Max Ernst and Leonora Carrington, lovers when they lived here.

The house belonged to Leonora; she bought it with money sent from England. She had scandalised her Catholic family by eloping with Ernst, who was 26 years her senior, divorced and married to another woman, in the autumn of 1937. Though she turned her back on her relatives, and although the rift would never be healed, her mother secretly supported her, sending cash and food parcels as the war took hold and the south of France became ever further away from the family home in Lancashire.



SURREAL FINDS A door painted with a winged horse-woman figure. Above right: outside Max Ernst and Leonora Carrington's home near Saint-Martin-d'Ardèche

I call her Leonora because she was my cousin. I was a member of that family she abandoned, but I found my way to her in 2006, and visited her regularly in the last five years of her life. She was in her eighties by the time I knocked on her door; my father, who had been five when she left, barely remembered her, and no one back home of my generation had met her. She became my friend; more than my friend, my mentor. I sat with her at her kitchen table in Mexico City — because that was where she had ended up, after a story that was every bit as surreal as any of her paintings — and I learnt many things. How to work out what matters most; how and why artists make their art; how to trust my instincts above all else. I learnt about Leonora's childhood, about the schools she had been expelled from, about the Renaissance artists of Florence who had opened her eyes to painting, about the school in London where she had painstakingly learnt to draw, and about the moment when she smiled across a dinner table at a handsome, German artist many years her senior, who was as captivated with her as she was with him.

I learnt about their love affair, and about how she realised early on that she had to make a clean break with her family, who not only didn't approve of Ernst but whose concerns she found bourgeois and unhelpful. They were wealthy textile merchants but they knew little about art, and cared about it even less. When they told her they would cut her off without a penny she laughed in their faces, and hurried to catch the boat-train to Paris, where she joined Ernst and his friends — Picasso, Dalí, Duchamp, Breton, Méret Oppenheim — in St Germain, parachuted into place at a table in the most exciting spot in western art in that moment, the café Les Deux Magots, the unofficial HQ of the surrealist movement.

She and Ernst didn't stay long in Paris; his wife was there as well, making the city too crowded. The pair of them — he styled himself the Bird Superior, and he called her his Bride of the Wind — travelled south to the Ardèche, where there would be just the two of them, and a world of artistic opportunities. At first they camped by the river, and then they bought the run-down farmhouse on the hill. They had some work done on it and moved in, paintbrushes and palettes in hand. Far from the whirl of Paris, they lapped up every minute of life in this backwater, with only one another and the birds and the trees, the vines and the church bells in the village below for company.

> **It became the vehicle through which they could express the art that connected them**

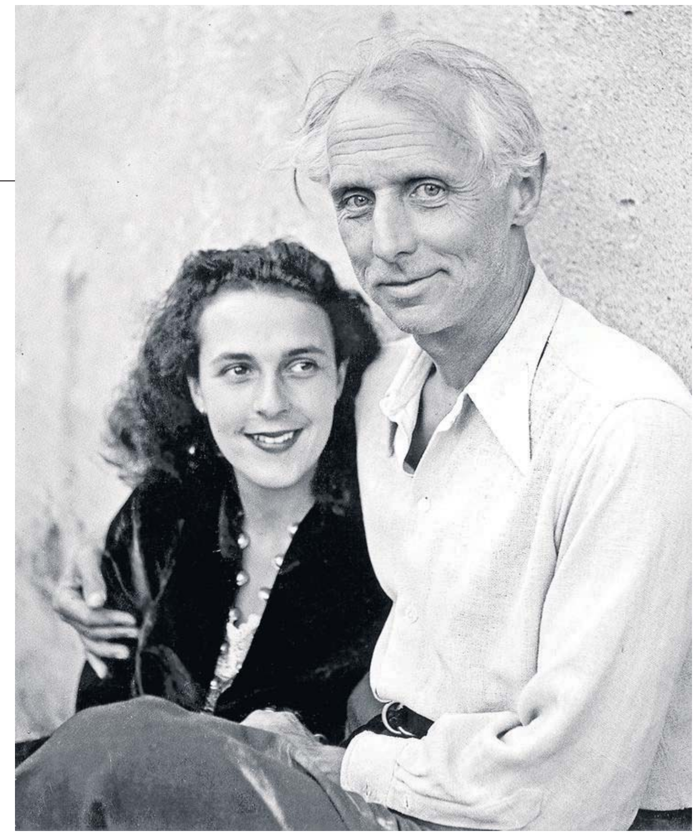
Their palettes are at the house to this day, propped up above a doorway; his board and hers, a silent memorial to the hours they spent here, painting and sculpting and creating, side by side. Sometimes they painted on canvases — she painted him, and he painted her — but mostly they painted the house. It was as though its very fabric became the vehicle through which they could express not only their individual art, but also the art that connected them. And although their relationship would end, and they would move on, this house would remain as a witness to their idyllic sojourn.



Eighty years later I feel my visits here are a kind of homage to Leonora, who died aged 94 in 2011. I open the doors she opened; I admire the view she admired; I sit on the bed she slept in and I leaf through the books she was reading (their entire bookcase remains here, untouched: volumes of fairytales from England and Ireland brush up against German volumes that belonged to Ernst). I muse on the art that festoons the place: the creamy white horse's head affixed to the terrace wall, its nose turned to one side, its nostrils slightly flared, a quizzical look on its face. I pass the blood-red unicorn, its horn ahead of its fiery mane, painted in profile on the kit-

JOANNA MOORHEAD; © LEE MILLER ARCHIVES









chen cupboard. I visit the bathroom to admire the elegant sphinx on the door panel, and like Marina Warner — who also knew Leonora, and has also explored her work — I wonder whether this piece was part-executed by Leonor Fini, Max's former lover, who at one point came to visit.

It's difficult to know which pieces are by Leonora and which are by Ernst, and in many ways it doesn't matter: this house represents their life together, the time when they were entwined, the time when they learnt from one another. While Ernst was the senior in years, and while he was a far more established artist during their time together, theirs was a two-way street, and feminist art historians have spent the past few decades reframing the myth that a woman like Leonora, still only in her early twenties when she was living here, could only ever hope to be a muse, never a serious artist.

Today her canvases sell for upwards of $3 million. Her novel *The Hearing Trumpet* has never been out of print, and over the past few months thousands of people have seen a retrospective of her work, shown first in Copenhagen, then in Madrid. A couple of months ago an article in The Wall Street Journal mused on whether Leonora might be the new Frida Kahlo, noting the many parallels between their lives, including more famous (in their lifetimes) male partners (Diego Rivera was Kahlo's husband), as well as serious health crises — Kahlo never got over injuries sustained in a bus accident in her teens, and after leaving France Leonora spent time in a psychiatric institution, an experience from which she never fully recovered. Leonora knew Kahlo briefly in Mexico City; she told me she remembered visiting the older artist, who was by then bedridden. She and I would laugh sometimes, over a cup of tea or a glass of tequila, about her work spawning — as Kahlo's already had — an industry of mugs and fridge magnets, T-shirts and tote bags. It didn't seem likely, back in those days, but today I have all these items and more. For a few surreal months last year her self-portrait greeted me at every London Tube station, the lead image in a Tate show, and in Italy the Venice Biennale was themed in her honour.

For my new book about Leonora I travelled across Europe, the US and Mexico in her footsteps: I followed her journey from Lancashire to London and Cornwall, and then to Paris and the Ardèche; to Santander and Madrid, and to Lisbon (where, in a thrilling twist, she would reconnect with Ernst, who was by that stage married to Peggy Guggenheim). I went to New York and Chicago to see the neighbourhoods where she lived, and I returned to Mexico City, where the house she inhabited for 60 years is now a museum. But of all these locations, every one crucial in her story, the place I felt her spirit closest was the house in France. Perhaps it was the art, perhaps it was the books, perhaps it was the way the whole place had been so miraculously preserved. Or perhaps it was the fact that this was where her journey as an artist truly started. In this house she learnt from Ernst, and was able to experiment and practise and read and absorb ideas in a way she hadn't before.



LIVING ART Top: the lovers in France, 1939. Above: a white unicorn's head on the terrace wall. Below: cupboard doors open to reveal strange creatures. Left: a unicorn on a kitchen cupboard; and a bat mosaic on the basement floor

Ernst left first, involuntarily, in 1941: arrested as an enemy alien, he was taken into detention. Bereft and afraid, Leonora was persuaded by a friend to go to Spain. She left reluctantly, aware that if Max was released from prison this was where he would come to look for her, which is exactly what happened. Finding the house abandoned, he rescued the art he could carry and moved on: the owner of the house recalls that years later he returned again, and made casts of the sculptures and bas-relief works in the house.

Leonora, however, never came back. When I visited the house for the first time in the spring of 2011, I intended to take news of it back to her on my next trip to Mexico. But there was no time; she died a few weeks later. She had predicted, though, that I would find her old house exactly as she remembered it, art and all. She was right, and so it remains: a silent, mesmerising, haunting tribute to two great artists, and the summer of their lives.

***Surreal Spaces: The Life and Art of Leonora Carrington* (Thames & Hudson £30) is published on June 1. Order a copy at timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Special discount available for Times+ members**


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film

Growing up with Steven Spielberg, by his little sister

MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS





Nancy Spielberg tells Anne Joseph about being roped into her brother's childhood films and her own career as a producer

Nancy Spielberg has decided to turn off her camera. It is mid-morning, Chicago time, and the award-winning producer confesses that she is still in her pyjamas. "I'm so embarrassed," she says with a hearty laugh. "I'm a go-getter, jump in the morning, grab my coffee and do things, so I've been working. I'm not a slacker. I haven't had a chance to get dressed and brush my teeth. And I look like shit."

Spielberg, 66, is certainly busy. For several years, based in New York, she has run Playmount Productions, the company her father, Arnold, established in 1962 for her elder brother, Steven. Since 2013 its projects have focused mainly on Jewish-themed documentaries. The latest, *Closed Circuit*, is a powerful Israeli film examining the trauma of the survivors of a terrorist attack in a Tel Aviv food market in 2016.

Spielberg's interest began with a cold-call email. "I get many emails from strangers saying, 'I have a script, I have a movie, give it to your brother,'" she says, but this one, written by the first-time director Tal Inbar, made a particular impression. Inbar wanted to develop her nine-minute student film into a feature documentary about the terror attack on June 8, 2016. "And it hit me like a ton of bricks because I was in Israel on that day. It was the day after my birthday and I was celebrating with friends in a restaurant [in Jerusalem] at that same time. So, I said, 'Let's talk.'"

The film felt relevant "on so many levels. Terror doesn't check your ID. It's happening everywhere. Look at America with these random acts of violence." Indeed, during production, Spielberg recalled that her father had been on a hijacked El Al flight in the 1960s. Maybe this was another reason she was drawn to the film. She agrees. "When I first jumped on this, it was because of my being there. Then I remembered him giving me the brochure that the terrorists handed out on the runway."

There is a nine-year gap between Nancy, the youngest of the four siblings, and Steven. "I was the surprise child," she says. "But my mum said I was the best one — of course, she probably said that to each of us." She recalls experiencing antisemitism as a little girl in Phoenix, Arizona, with neighbours calling them dirty Jews. "We definitely stood out a little because we were practically the only Jews in the neighbourhood." Some of the children may not have loved them, she says, but on summer nights, when they showed films that Steven had rented, setting them up in their backyard and using a bedsheet as a screen, "they sure came and watched".

Nancy grew up immersed in film-making. Steven would draft his sisters in as cast and crew on his early films. "We just did whatever Steve said because he sort of ruled the house." Was it fun? "Not always. But you didn't have a choice because the punishment was that he would scare the crap out of us. He would draw this Medusa scary face with the snakey hair and the big skeleton eyes on a chalkboard. And he would say, 'If you can sleep with this staring at you, I will give you ten cents.' And we didn't want to say no. We tried, but ended up in mum's bed half the time."

Her brother's tornado game terrified her the most, she says. "He would pretend to be a radio announcer, make this staticky noise and say, 'We interrupt this programme to bring a special announcement: a tornado is headed to Nancy and Sue's house,' because he always tortured Sue and me, the two youngest." Her other sister, Anne, was his "script girl, his, 'Go do this, Annie. Go bake me a cake. I need to cut the icing and see if it curls like the Betty Crocker commercial on TV.' And if it didn't, it was her fault. But this is what we did, and I guess we grew to love some of it in the end." Their mother, Leah, would also play her part. "Steve was too young to drive for some of his movies, so she'd dress up as a man and drive the army Jeep."

Arnold's job as a computer engineer took the family to northern California, but it was not a happy time, Spielberg says. She was ten when her parents divorced. When they told her, "I was hysterical. Crying. And I was furious." They were, she says, very different people. Leah was a concert pianist "and the kid. My dad was always the responsible adult. We felt the tension and my mum was sad." It was on the train back to Arizona that she told the girls (Steven stayed in California with Arnold) the reason for her sadness and why they were returning to Arizona: she was in love with Bernie Adler, their father's best friend and a familiar figure in their lives. "He was our friend. And I had enough understanding to know that meant something beyond just being friends. I was so angry. That, to me, crossed a line. Of course, I loved Bernie so much and I got over that pretty quickly. Bernie was a father to me, my second father, so we lucked out."

FAMILY BUSINESS Top: Steven and Nancy Spielberg. Above: Paul Dano, Michelle Williams and Seth Rogen in The Fabelmans. Below: the director Tal Inbar



'We just did whatever Steve said because he ruled the house. You didn't have a choice'

***Closed Circuit* will be screened at JW3, London NW3, on Tuesday and Thursday**

Spielberg and her sisters discovered that art had uncovered life when they read the draft script of *The Fabelmans*, Steven Spielberg's semi-autobiographical film. They learnt that their brother had inadvertently filmed a romantic moment between Leah and Bernie during a camping trip and kept it a secret. "We didn't know [what he had seen] until he called and said, 'I'm thinking of doing this, and I need you girls to be OK with this and tell me what you think.'"

What was her reaction to the script? "I was bereft. I was overwhelmed," she replies. However, she adds: "I had absolutely no hesitancy. We're an open family. This is a matter of heartbreak and love, and people go through this. It's not unique to the Spielies."

And what if they had not wanted him to go ahead? "I think he would have said, 'OK, I won't do it,' or, 'Let's talk about it. What bothers you the most? Can there be changes that still make this the kind of film I have this need to tell?'" She says they were mostly concerned for Anne, a scriptwriter who, years before, had thought of doing something similar. "But he was very smart. He said, 'I can't do it without you guys,' which made us feel very important."

The sisters acted as consultants for the film. "We were very involved," Spielberg emphasises. "Every painting you see on the walls is a painting that hung in our home." They advised on everything from wardrobe, food and furniture to perfume and coffee cups. She was only six months old when the family lived in New Jersey in the 1950s and had no recollection of their house. "But I suddenly got to walk into it, which was really weird. Oh, my God, the email chains," she says. "It was such a nostalgia dump."

The need for authenticity and meticulous detail was twofold. "I think I would have been furious if I'd seen it done wrong. Secondly, the authenticity of it just set Steve into a mindset where he was able to really conjure up and deliver the true emotion. He was in tears so many times on set."

The Fabelmans shows Sammy (aka Steven) blaming their mother for the divorce. "But in real life, he held it against my dad for many years," Spielberg says. "Later, he repaired everything. He realised he blamed my dad for what was not my dad's fault, and they started to hang together and talk all the time. Dad would be on every movie set, and Steve would give him scripts and ask which films he should do."

Spielberg has watched *The Fabelmans* 11 times. "Now it's playing on the airplane; every time I fly, I put it on. Even if I'm not watching, I just want to hear the lines. I cry every time." It won a Golden Globe for best motion picture. "We're kvelling," Spielberg says. "Our chests are so puffed out with pride for our big brother." It amuses her when people tell her what they don't like about her brother's films. "They feel it's their duty."

After writing some films and consulting on others, Spielberg began producing them in her fifties. "Never too old to start," she says. "I decided to jump into the icy deep end, but I was really scared. I was intimidated by the other Spielbergs in the room." Now, she says she "feels good" and is confident in her own abilities.

"I think I'm doing the right thing on the right scale for me. I don't have to be guided by the box office. Instead, I'm guided by the stories, their impact and it's very liberating. I don't have to be a gun for hire and do things that I don't believe in. So what's not to like?"

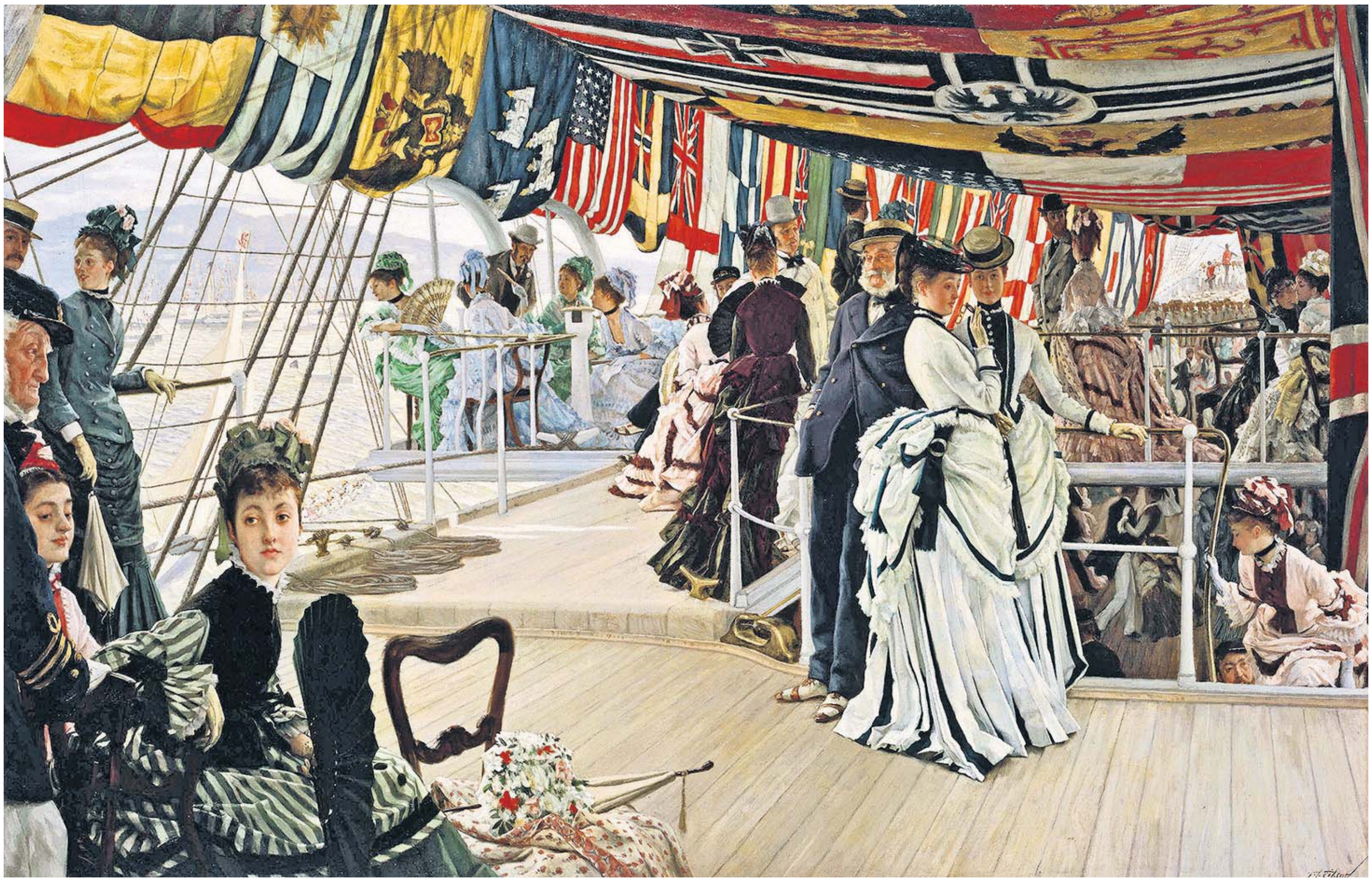
my culture fix

The artist lets us into her cultural life

Lubaina Himid



TATE; ALASTAIR MUIR/REX



My favourite author or book
Audre Lorde, especially her poems.

The book I'm reading
Internet_Art: From the Birth of the Web to the Rise of NFTs by Omar Kholeif.

The book I wish I had written
The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt. I love the art connections, the extraordinary cast of utterly real, hopeless people and the constant journeys in and out of New York life.

The book I couldn't finish
Recently, *A Place of Greater Safety* by Hilary Mantel. I think I will finish it eventually, but have been picking it up and putting it down for quite a few months now.

The book I'm ashamed I haven't read
I don't really feel shame around books, but it does seem a pity not to have ever read *Middlemarch* [by George Eliot].

My favourite film
Bringing Up Baby because it reminds me of how to laugh at myself.

My favourite play
The Duchess of Malfi. I saw a production once in which all the protagonists were dressed in elaborate yet heavy woollen 17th-century mustard yellow costumes. It was riveting because you had to concentrate with every fibre of your intellect to remember who was who in the breathtakingly murderous plot.

The box set that I'm hooked on
I'm not really hooked on TV or box sets any more, but the last series I loved was *The Split*, a drama set around the lives of London divorce lawyers. It's tough to watch because the choices the women make seem easy, but are dreadful — this makes it riveting. Occasionally I'm encouraged to watch *The L Word*, but I only really care about two or three of the adorable women in the show, which is often not reason enough to stay awake.

My favourite TV series
Mad Men — for the women, the clothes, the theme tune and the outrageous duplicitousness.

My favourite piece of music
Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strauss — because falling in love when you are over 60 is incredible and heartbreaking. You need to have hope and graciousness and not let time rule your days together.



A SPOT OF BOTHER **Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn in Bringing Up Baby (1938)**

The last music that made me cry and laugh
The opera *Dialogues des Carmélites* [at Glyndebourne this summer]. It's about a group of nuns being guillotined in the final days of the French Revolution. It makes me both laugh and cry: so many women murdered in one opera — cry — and the sound of 14 heads being chopped off — nervous laugh.

The lyric I wish I'd written
"Falling in love again/ Never wanted to/ What am I to do?/ I can't help it," by Marlene Dietrich [words by the songwriter Sammy Lerner].

The song that saved me
Bedlam by the fabulous folk band Stick in the Wheel. My life was falling apart in 2015 and 2016; this song and the artists in the north of England I know well kept me going.



The instrument I played
The cello. I was pretty bad and didn't practise enough (of course).

The instrument I wish I'd learnt
The piano, so that I could pretend to be Thelonious Monk or Keith Jarrett.

The music that cheers me up
It is quite difficult to cheer me up, especially with music, but 20 minutes of Leonard Cohen is always uplifting in a peculiarly depressing way.

If I could own one painting it would be …
Ball on Shipboard by James Tissot, for its delicious day off, day out, secret assignation vibe.

The place I feel happiest
In other people's studios, listening to them telling me about their latest projects, while having tea and cake.

My guiltiest cultural pleasure
I don't really feel guilty about enjoying any cultural activity, but it would probably be better for me if I could give up reading Mick Herron and Martin Amis.

ALL ABOARD **From top: James Tissot's The Ball on Shipboard, c1874; Derrick Ballard and Hanna Hipp in Der Rosenkavalier in 2021. Below: Stephen Mangan and Nicola Walker in The Split**



I'm having a fantasy dinner party, I'll invite these artists and authors…
Helen Frankenthaler, Magda Stawarska, Donna Tartt, Audre Lorde, Betye Saar and Jackie Kay.

And I'll put on this music…
The operas *Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell and *Norma* by Bellini, followed by *Der Rosenkavalier* and finally every song that Nina Simone ever recorded.

The show that I'm looking forward to
Someone else has booked tickets for *Semele* at Glyndebourne this season, which sounds amazing.

I wasted an evening watching…
Listening to or watching something someone has created is never really a waste of time, but I used to distract myself by watching *Big Brother* when the programme was young and funny in the early 2000s.

The play/film I walked out of
I've never walked out of a film or play, but I've fallen asleep in dozens of them during the past 50 years.

Overrated
Possibly the composer Felix Mendelssohn because he sends me to sleep before the music has even begun.

Underrated
I'm not sure that the singer-songwriters Sonya Spence or Meshell Ndegeocello get enough airplay and deep attention. Both are wonderful musicians.

Lubaina Himid's opera-inspired exhibition *What Does Love Sound Like?* is at the Glyndebourne Festival, East Sussex, to August 27, glyndebourne.com

visual art

Meet the hangman of Tate Britain

The gallery's rethink aims to make it more inclusive, its director Alex Farquharson tells Rachel Campbell-Johnston on a guided tour

CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES



PICTURE PERFECT
Alex Farquharson in front of Britain Seen from the North, 1981, by Tony Cragg

'We want to tell the story of British art that is also the story of Britain," Alex Farquharson, the director of Tate Britain, says. He is striding through the galleries of his grand Millbank building as the finishing touches are put to a big rehang. I scuttle along in his wake; familiar images by all the old favourites flick past.

"These galleries [there are about 40 of them] offer a wonderful opportunity to journey though time from the Tudors to today," Farquharson says. "But the story of Britain is both national and international. Our local history has a wider context and so the three main 'banners' under which we have been working are: how to relate art to society, Britain to the world, and history to the present."

The rehang, a huge reshuffle at least a year in the planning, is the first for Tate Britain since 2013. Some 800 works by about 350 artists go out on display. "The rooms are thematised, each a bit like a mini show," Farquharson says. A gallery that looks at the birth of the exhibition, for instance, is given a floor-to-ceiling, salon-style hang. "This not only allows us to show a hell of a lot of the collection, but also to consider how art was seen at the time of our first public exhibitions, of the birth of the art market and of art criticism." Through thematisation, he says, curators set out "to relate art to its society, to its culture in the sense of its political, economic, technological and intellectual life."

To effect this more fully, about 200 works acquired since the turn of the millennium are hung. Almost a third have entered the collection in the past five years. "We can plug gaps that predecessors may have been less mindful of," Farquharson says. "Female artists are more fully represented than ever before."

Visitors entering the second gallery — named *Court v Parliament* — will find all the most famous 17th-century names. But they will also encounter portraits by Joan Carlile, one of the first women in Britain to work as a professional painter, as well as Mary Beale and Anne Killigrew.

These three recent acquisitions, Farquharson explains, redress the balance for a present-day audience that prioritises gender equality.

"When you get to the 1960s," he says, "Pauline Boty, the pop artist forgotten for so many years, is reinstated alongside such peers as Blake and Hockney. Jann Haworth's key role in the design of the Beatles' *Sgt Pepper* album cover is properly acknowledged. And of the contemporary artists on display, more than half will be women." And about a quarter to a third, he guesses, will be artists of colour.

"We have been collecting works that tell the story of Britain in a more democratic sense," he says. "So after seeing a lot of pictures of people who could afford to have themselves painted by, say, Gainsborough, you will come across a tiny painting from the 1830s, a recent acquisition, of the riots that took place in Bristol after the 1832 Reform Act. It led to a far better representation of MPs, vis-à-vis the actual demographics of a fast-changing, increasingly urban society."

This image of civil unrest (sparked by a local MP who voted against reform) will be set alongside landscapes by Constable, which reflect on this same moment except from a far more conservative point of view. His *Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds*, Farquharson says, "is used as a symbol of unchanging values".

"Our rehang aims at an inclusive view of art history," he declares. "All the key artists remain properly represented — certainly in no less depth than we have been used to seeing them to date." The seven Turner bequest galleries, although recurated, remain a fixture. There is a Constable room. Blake has been brought down from the attic to the main floor. There are also solo rooms that rotate.

"At the moment Richard Hamilton is very well represented," Farquharson says. "In nine months' time another artist will take his place." But what will be added, he hopes, is a wider outlook. "The hang is more diverse, more multifaceted. You get the view from above, which is generally what art history offers, but you also get some perspectives from below.

The additions "offer the sort of fresh take on our global history that formerly the collection was either consciously or unconsciously not representing," he says. An emphasis has been put on bringing out historical pictures of people of colour — a portrait of two Jamaican girls by Emma Soyer, for instance, painted in 1831, two years before the Slavery Abolition Act. "The tide of opinion was turning and this picture — a long-term loan which only came in very recently — reflects that moment." From the 1950s, when large-scale migration from the colonies began, artists of colour will be "very well represented", and when it comes to the contemporary even more so. The LGBT experience is also included through images that range from a picture by Simeon Solomon, a gay Jewish painter arrested in 1873 for soliciting in a public convenience, to the modern photographs of the nonbinary Rene Matic.

"Until quite recently there were next to no representations of artists with disabilities," Farquharson adds. "Now, for example, we have a beautiful painting [by David Wilkie in 1806] of a blind fiddler."

Does this mean, I wonder, that favourites might be passed over in favour of inclusivity? Watercolours by Emily Sargent, sister of the much better-known John, will for the first time be on display. Farquharson insists not. "It's still the most celebrated figures who are looked at in most depth. I don't think you will feel short-changed. A line-up of three of John Singer Sargent's most glamorous portraits are the centrepiece of our fin de siècle room. There are no major pictures that people will miss."

What about the labels? A Hogarth show at Tate Britain in 2021 set critics fuming when, in what felt like guilt-stricken anxiety to be woke, a gaggle of politically righteous contributors were recruited to write hypersensitive wall texts. Farquharson defends his museum. "Conversation pieces will hang in the first Georgian gallery," he says. "And when you look at what's on the table — tea from India, porcelain from China, coffee and sugar from the Caribbean — you are looking not just at a picture of a room of a certain social type of that time, but also at something that indicates a vast global network." Most pictures will come with an explainer text now, as previously only in the paying exhibitions. "Although this rehang is very much about telling the backstories, it won't be heavily annotated. It will be about unfolding some important stories that people care about. Texts might focus on the sitter, or the artist, or the imagery, or the broader theme, but we only have 90 words."

Rather than dishing up politicised commentary, curators have opted, from time to time, to introduce the contemporary to historical galleries. "They work like stealth bombs," Farquharson says. *Exodus II*, a 2002 Mona Hatoum meditation on emigration, will be shown in the *Exiles and Dynasties* gallery of Tudor and early Jacobean images by painters who, frequently, had arrived here from the Low Countries. Later, the enormous 1710 *Whig Junto* portrait of political power players will be hung against wallpaper (a work by the contemporary artist Nils Norman) that reproduces dozens of the printed pamphlets and broadsides that incorporate the much wider political opinions of that day.

"Interpretation is never specifically political," he says. "I mean, is Wolfgang Tillmans's 2015 *The State We're In* [a photograph of the Atlantic Ocean] about Brexit? Is it about British isolation? You may read it that way, but you may also read into it a wider resonance. I want to encourage visitors to see the whole thing. I hope that the vision of this new curatorial framework will encourage people to think across time, to make jumps, to discover, to go right back to the past as well as see our present and to think about our future.

"I want British art to come to life," Farquharson concludes. "That's what really excites me. Our ideal audience is someone who, rather than coming to find something they already know about, will enjoy it all."

The Tate Britain rehang is unveiled to the public on Tuesday

Female artists are more fully represented than ever before

interview

‘Everyone’s dying, but my poems are consolations, a companionship of grief’

Nick Laird found writing verse his only respite during his father’s last illness. He talks to Susie Goldsbrough about having a famous wife and why social media is killing literature



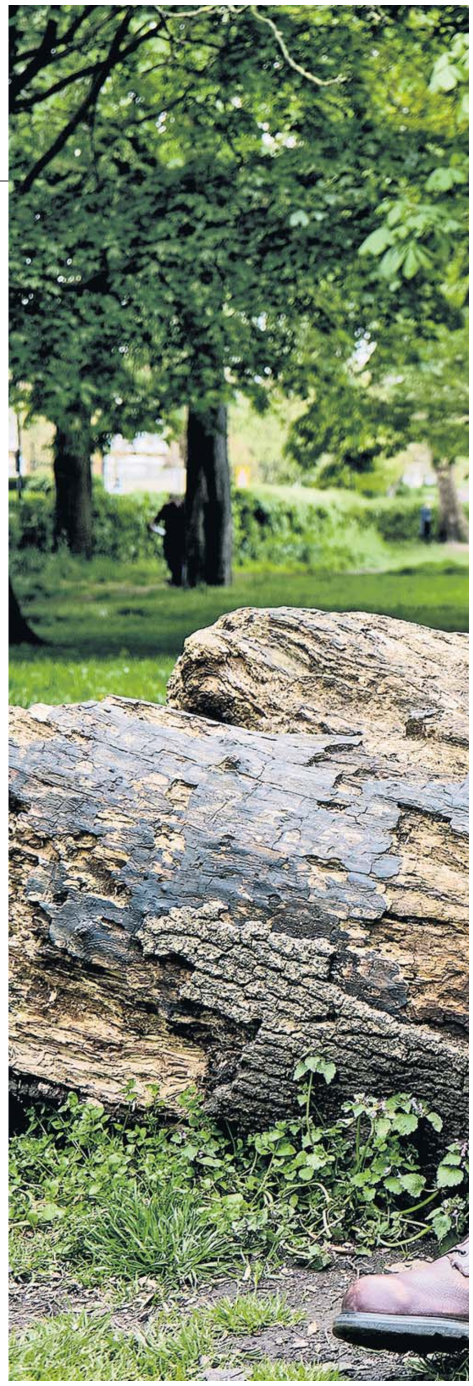
When his father was lying in a hospital bed in Antrim, dying, Nick Laird was not allowed to see him. It was the early spring of 2021, the country was still in lockdown and hospitals were barred to the healthy. Instead, from nearly 500 miles away in Kilburn, north London, he said goodbye to a Zoom screen and down a phone held close to an unhearing ear. Then, finding that he “wasn’t fit company for anyone” as he waited for death, he took himself to his office at the end of the garden and began to write.

“My father died today. Sorry to bolt that on.
You understand the shift required. This morning
the consultant said your father now is clawing
at the mask and is exhausted and we’ve thrown
everything we have at this. It’s a terrible disease.
…
But dying, then, as we speak,
my father in the IC ward
of Antrim Area Hospital.
The icy ward.
The ICU.
I see you too.”

These are snatches from *Up Late*, the elegy he wrote and rewrote in those creeping days, which won the Forward prize for best single poem last year. It’s funny, unsparing, self-aware — there are towering thoughts (“Impossible to grieve/ and not know the vanity of grief”) and tender, bludgeoning details. It forms the 15-page spine (for death takes its time) of Laird’s fifth collection, with which it shares a name, out next month.

I meet Laird, 47, at a cafe in Queen’s Park, near the home he shares with his wife, the novelist Zadie Smith, and their two children. He’s tall, salt-and-pepper handsome, softly spoken and dry (at one point in the interview my earring pings out. “You’re falling apart,” he says matter-of-factly). I catch a whiff of politely concealed impatience at the interview business, but that might just be the consequence of his having to deal with a leaking freezer and a missing car insurance number. “My wife had another driving lesson this morning,” he says, apologising after fielding a phone call. “I think she thinks it’s like therapy, you just keep going for ever.”

Laird grew up in Cookstown, Co Tyrone (he retains a softened accent) in the Seventies and Eighties. Only later in life did he realise that passing through three police checkpoints each morning to get to school wasn’t a universal experience. His parents



came from Protestant families who hurriedly left Ireland during the 1921 partition (when the IRA showed up in West Cork and burnt down the next door farmhouse, his mother’s family chartered a train, loaded it up with 11 children and their animals, and fled). His father opposed the partition and considered himself Irish, but Laird went to a Protestant comprehensive where he was surrounded by unionism. “It was a slightly strange position to be in,” he says (like a lot of writers, he’s not given to overstatement). “You never felt you were part of one thing entirely.”

That’s where the poetry came in. “You had received narratives from the church and from your school and from your

‘Maybe it’s just the stage of life I’m at, but there’s a lot of sadness around’

friendship groups, and poetry was a way of thinking outside that.” He fell in love with the work of Seamus Heaney, a Catholic who grew up just a few miles from Laird. “For me poetry [isn’t about] being a kind of stridently identified self,” he says, referring to a vogue he attributes to social media, which he dislikes. “I’m interested in literature that allows complications.

“It’s very hard to be a single self, and the point of literature is to prove that no one is, that if you read a book by anyone from anywhere, part of the reason it resonates is because everyone feels love or desire or shame. But I’ve noticed this fashion of saying, ‘You can’t hope to understand this if

CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES



you are this one thing,' and I just don't think it's true. I've never thought it was true." His words made me think of a brilliant New York Review of Books essay in defence of fiction's "mortifying habit of putting words into the mouths of others". Googling it later, I was reminded that it was written by his wife.

After years teaching at New York and Columbia universities (the family lived in the US for a decade and returned to the UK during the pandemic), and now working as a professor of poetry at Queen's, Belfast, Laird has an instinctive sympathy for how the digital world is affecting the young. "On social media people argue positions and then have to stick to them. God save you from having to keep a position that you had at the age of 20 or 15."

When Laird was 20, he was an English student at Cambridge University, navigating homesickness and public school gits. "I don't think I spoke for the first year in lectures or workshops."

He ran the college bar and spent a lot of time throwing out drunk boys who had been to Eton. "They'd say, 'Go back where you came from,' which was sort of shocking. I'd never thought of myself as Irish in that way, but of course you come to England and you're a Paddy." Still, "it was an amazing place to study English and I loved it, in the end. I met lots of people who I'm still very friendly with, one of whom I'm married to."

The subject of Laird's wife requires some delicacy. Deep breath. What's it like being the less famous half of a literary couple, I demand. He laughs. "That's complicated. My wife is very famous and very recognisable. It's like having an invisibility cloak, even if I'm standing beside her, which is very useful. I get to go with her to festivals and carry her bag and not have to do anything. I've grown used to it; we will have been married 20 years next year. We've known each other since we were 19, so we've been through it all."

Would the invisibility cloak be less of a pleasure if the gender roles were reversed, I ask (thinking of the many women writers who have struggled in the shadow of their more famous spouses). "It's not always a pleasure. This is an interview about my book and we're talking about my wife."

I must look a little singed because he apologises (although he hadn't been rude, just crisp). We return to the topic of poetry. After Cambridge, Laird did not, I was surprised to discover during my preparation, settle down to a garret-life of gruel and versifying. He became a lawyer and spent a decade working in litigation for Allen & Overy, the UK's second largest law firm, while scribbling TLS reviews at lunchtime and publishing poems in magazines. Why?

"If you're halfway intelligent and you're Northern Irish, your parents think you'll become a teacher or a doctor or lawyer."

He remembers the work as genuinely interesting (another surprise for someone used to the grumbles of solicitor friends), particularly the year he spent on the Bloody Sunday inquiry, and misses working in a team. Had the hours not become so punishing, he might still only be writing on the side like artists of yore — the lawyer of letters (John Donne), the postmaster-novelist (Anthony Trollope) and the banker-poet (TS Eliot). Instead, he spent a year as a fellow at Harvard, got his first book deal and became a professional writer.

For Laird, poetry has never been about public recognition (and, honestly, I believe him). "The only pleasure for me is actually writing. I love the thrill and the flow. William Maxwell and Frank O'Connor [a fiction editor at The New Yorker and an Irish writer, respectively] had a series of letters to each other where they talked about the happiness of getting it down right."

His dislike of publication has "got worse and worse", he says. "When a new book arrives or I'm in a magazine, I can't bear to look at it; I find it so excruciating. It's maybe a shame-based thing." What is he ashamed of? "Sometimes the poems are personal or confessional or private. Sometimes it's easier to say things to the page than to a person."

So why publish at all? "You have to pay your mortgage," he says, although it's a fortunate poet who can afford one these days. "And when you go and do a reading, there's a pleasure sometimes in saying the thing out loud."

Then he stops and reconsiders (he repeatedly makes the frankly amateurish mistake of doing some actual thinking during this interview). "Maybe the answer is not to publish at all. Maybe that's why [Emily] Dickinson's work is so wild and surprising. Because there's no expectation of any person she was writing for." Perhaps the question of whether to publish or not is a bit of an irrelevance since it's hard to convince people to read poetry at all these days, but Laird has little interest in doom-mongering.

'Poetry has always been a minority sport, but it's interesting that people turn to it at the big junctures of their life'

"Poetry has always been a minority sport, but I think it's interesting that people turn to it at the big junctures of their life. At a wedding people read poems, and at a funeral people read poems. They kind of need it even if they don't read it every day."

At this point he begins to lose interest in playing the salesman. "I also wouldn't worry about more people reading it; it doesn't make any difference to poetry. If you don't like it, then bully for you … Poets are always put in the position of having to justify it or sell it in some way, [but] part of the joy of poetry is that it's free from the market. We don't have to respond to the publisher saying, 'This isn't going to sell.' Nothing sells!" A merry chuckle.

We return to the digital world, to cat videos and pratfalls, to the collective online race to a cultural bottom. Laird tried Twitter once, the way other people try drugs, but says: "Everyone was so awful on it; even people I liked in real life were just boastful and self-aggrandising … and if you're Northern Irish, that's just bad manners." His phone is a flip — I see it with my own eyes. It's like something out of a movie. His teenage daughter, however, is "totally addicted" to her smartphone, which "makes me a bit sad".

As a teacher, Laird noticed that "people's concentration is shot. Back when I was at university you would sit down and tackle an 800-page novel because you had to and suggesting that to my students now — it's certainly more difficult." This chimes with a recent New Yorker piece that theatrically announced "The End of the English Major". It quoted James Shapiro, the Shakespeare professor at Columbia, as saying: "I probably read five novels a month until the 2000s. If I read one a month now, it's a lot."

But back to *Up Late*, which is more about dying than technology — Laird's father, his friends and the screaming, half-eaten baby rabbit that he had to pound into painlessness with a stone as his children looked on. The last one is from my favourite poem in the collection, *The Outing*, in which Laird is aware of his children's eyes on him, asking: "What one does with enormous/ pain when you see it, where/ you should put it, how might you/ stop it"? These are the questions that underpin the book.

"Everyone's dying," he tells me. "Maybe it's just the stage of life I'm at, but there's a lot of sadness around. The poems are consolations, a kind of companionship of grief." But there is a second current in the book, a defiant lustiness. Laird is often found sitting on benches, feeling the sun "on your skin asking how it's been since you last touched", enjoying clouds and colours, "ready to eat something". "You end up sitting on a lot of benches when you have kids," he says and points to one a few feet away from which he watches his son play football. "Wordsworth talks about the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings recollected in tranquillity. He's reclining on his chaise longue, I'm sitting on a wooden bench in a park." Chaise longues, park benches, it doesn't make much of a difference in the end. What matters is the pause — and from the pause will come, perhaps, a poem.

Up Late **by Nick Laird (Faber, £10.99) is published on June 1. To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount available for Times+ members**



LOGGING OFF The poet Nick Laird and, below, with his wife, the novelist Zadie Smith

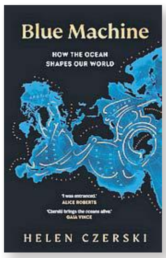
books



The big blue machine: why the oceans rule the world

Book of the week

A beautifully written guide to the seas reveals the hidden complexity of their role in moving energy around the Earth, says Tom Whipple



Blue Machine
How the Ocean Shapes Our World
by Helen Czerski

Torva, 464pp; £20

Afterwards, Pliny would blame the remora. In a part of the Ionian Sea known as the Ambracian Gulf, the heavy fleets of Antony and Cleopatra faced off against the lighter, but more numerous, fleet of Octavian. Here, in 31BC, one of the decisive naval battles of early European history — the battle of Actium — would be fought. Its outcome would determine the fate of the Roman Empire.

Yet something odd happened. Antony's ships did not ram. Their heavy bronze prows were pointed menacingly towards the enemy vessels, ready to hole them below the waterline. But instead of rowing hard and fast, the ships attacked sluggishly and were defeated. Pliny the Elder, the great Roman historian, suggested the hulls must have been slowed by a multitude of remora — thin fish with suckers that attach themselves to sharks, or ships.

Helen Czerski, a physicist, has a different explanation. Antony and Cleopatra may, she suggests, have failed to account for the non-homogenous nature of the sea. The Ambracian is an enclosed bowl, 40km across. Rivers flow into it and, in the right conditions (if you are Octavian, that is), they don't always mix with the water below. The fresh water can instead form a layer, metres thick, on the surface. This means that if a boat is just the right size, when its captain orders the galley to start rowing, his vessel doesn't only make waves on the surface. It also makes hidden waves between the layers — between the salty water and the fresher water.

The galley master can cajole and whip all he likes, but he is fighting something more intractable than lazy workers. He is fighting fluid dynamics. In these circumstances an invisible wave will suck them back, slowing the hull with even more effectiveness than a multitude of remora.

We will never know if Cleopatra could have been saved from the asp had the waters of the Ionian just mixed a little better. We can know, though, that it would not have been the first time that the fate of continents hinged on ocean dynamics. Cleopatra's death is merely a colourful example of the key thesis of Czerski's book. The ocean appears uniform, but, she points out, it is not. Not at all.

It has seas, like the Baltic, that are almost fresh. It has seas so laden with salt that they tumble over underwater ridges, plunging beneath warmer currents like an undersea waterfall. It has unimaginably vast currents that move at a centimetre a day, taking water molecules on a transoceanic churn that will keep them from sunlight for a century. It has faster currents that redistribute heat to the poles and the gardens of Cornwall.

We cannot begin to understand what goes on above and beside the ocean, Czerski argues, without understanding the hidden complexity of what happens beneath and, especially, how the water flows affect the energy flows.

Life exists because of the sun and the energy from it that the Earth intercepts. Our planet can't hold the energy indefinitely, though. The best it can hope is to delay and redistribute it. Viewed this way, "the Earth is just a cascade of diversions, unable to stop the flood, but tapping into it as it trickles past", Czerski says.

One of the most fecund of those diversions occurs on the west coast of South America. For life in the sea, there is a fundamental paradox. Light, our primary energy source, is most abundant at the surface. But the nutrients also necessary for life are rarely at the surface. They drop down to the darker, lower layers. Except, that is, along the coast of Chile.

In this part of the Pacific, winds blow the warm surface waters westwards. By the coast, where the land meets the sea, there is no surface water to the east to replace them. So instead there is a churn. Cool, nutrient-rich waters from the deep are drawn up, phytoplankton blinking into the warmth of the surface. Light meets nutrients.

The ocean has seas, like the Baltic, that are almost fresh, and seas laden with salt

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

The result is a biological bounty unlike any on the planet. From 0.05 per cent of the global ocean surface comes 15-20 per cent of the global fisheries catch. It is not just humans who benefit. So too do seabirds, who feast in these waters. Then they poo in the islands around these waters. This is where we find the second bounty from this current.

The cool waters mean low evaporation and low rainfall, hence the Atacama Desert. Low rainfall means the poo hangs about, forming stacks 30m thick.

Those stacks, it was discovered in the 1800s, constitute some of the best fertiliser on the planet. Peru mined it, British farms imported it, Bolivia and Chile went to war over it. The US changed its law to allow explorers to lay claim to "guano islands" in its name.

On the coast of Chile, the nutrient-rich poo of seabirds is exported for fertiliser

And all because of a current. "It's a rare feature of nature that can claim to form a direct link between South American politics and British turnips via the medium of bird poo," Czerski writes in a typically lovely turn of phrase, "but then the world is full of surprises."

What is the point of the book? Czerski sets herself an awesome task. She is, essentially, attempting in a single book to explain the dynamics of most of the planet. Like the ocean, it could feel vast and formless. Just as it is hard to point to the border of the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, so each story and theme has to flow into the other without clear delineation or a driving narrative arc. In the hands of a bad writer it could be aimless, a flat and listless doldrums of wander-

ALASTAIR POLLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES



ing prose. Czerski is, luckily, very far from a bad writer. She is able to draw on her own ocean experiences — scientifically and recreationally — to take us on a brisk tour of the oceans, like a sleek catamaran skipping over the waves. Deftly harnessing the trade winds of history and geography, guiding us through eddies and currents of anecdote, she leaves us with an understanding of the complexity of the oceans.

Equally importantly, at a time when those oceans are absorbing heat faster than they can redistribute it, we also leave with an understanding of why Czerski — a canoeist, scuba diver and occasional polar scientist — is so infectiously enthusiastic about saving them.

Most of all, we leave with an appreciation of just how underappreciated the oceans are, and their role in our existence. "The ocean is an engine for converting sunlight into movement and life and complexity before the universe reclaims the loan," she says. Then when the light continues its journey, "that signature is dominated by blue; our message to the universe is *We are ocean*".

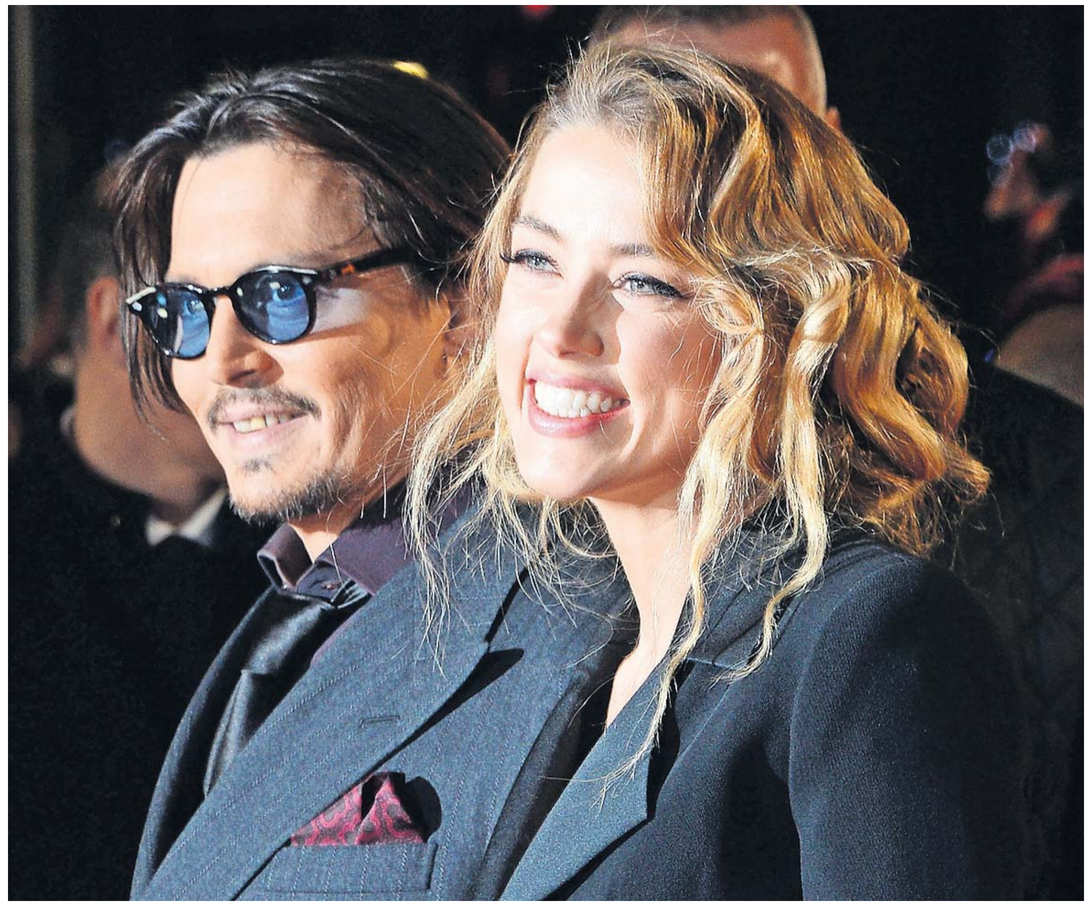
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Depp v Heard: a celebrity death match

The grim Hollywood courtroom clash is recounted with scrupulous fairness, says Anne Billson

DAVE M BENETT/GETTY IMAGES



BEFORE THE STORM **The film stars Johnny Depp and Amber Heard in 2015**

His fans will probably cancel me for writing this, but Johnny Depp's career has never recovered from Captain Jack Sparrow. Throughout the 1990s the actor proved himself a solid, if unusually good-looking straight man whose forte was reacting rather than acting opposite such geniuses of overemoting as Al Pacino (*Donnie Brasco*) or Christopher Walken (*Nick of Time*), or providing a fulcrum at the centre of a madly gurning ensemble (*Ed Wood*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Ninth Gate*).

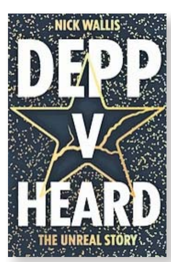
Edward Scissorhands, the first of eight collaborations with Tim Burton, worked because Depp channelled Buster Keaton's stone face. In subsequent films, apart from his drugged-to-the-gills Hunter S Thompson in *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, he kept a lid on the urge to ham it up — until his stoner rock star turn as Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* propelled him in 2003 to A-list stardom and encouraged him to go big.

Uncritical fans lapped it up, although for non-believers the Sparrow of the sequels seemed less a loveable rogue and more a drunken party bore you just wish would shut up and go home. Depp's much derided Tonto in *The Lone Ranger* proved to be unexpectedly poignant, but his performances in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Dark Shadows*, *Mortdecai* and *Alice in Wonderland* were collages of cringe-making quirks. Only as the lead role in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* did he seem uncontaminated by whimsy, so authentically malevolent that the horrific scene in which the title character throws his partner to a fiery death casts a shadow over the actor's jokey "Let's burn Amber!!!" text to Paul Bettany a few years later.

But the performance of Depp's career was yet to come. His leading lady in the 2011 film *The Rum Diary* (another, thankfully more low-key, adaptation of Thompson) was Amber Heard, already known to genre fans for *All the Boys Love Mandy Lane* and *Drive Angry*. They married in 2015. One year later, Heard filed for divorce and obtained a temporary restraining order.

Depp texted to an agent: "She's begging for total global humiliation. She's gonna get it." In 2020 he sued The Sun for libel after the tabloid called him a "wife beater". The Sun won, but the star got a second bite at the cherry when Heard wrote an op-ed for The Washington Post titled "I spoke up against sexual violence — and faced our culture's wrath." Her ex wasn't mentioned by name, but he sued her (not the newspaper; this was personal) for defamation.

Nick Wallis was the only journalist to cover both British and American court cases. His first book, published in 2021, was *The Great Post Office Scandal*; no one has yet been held accountable for the multimillion pound IT disaster that ruined hundreds of lives, but the story will surely one day make a rousing little-people-versus-corrupt-system drama. His second book is a different kettle of fish. Anyone adapting *Depp v Heard: The Unreal Story* would have



Depp v Heard
The Unreal Story
by Nick Wallis

Bath, 320pp; £12.99

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

to take their cue from Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon*, in which a murder is depicted from four conflicting points of view. Which of these accounts can we trust? Might the speakers be lying or mistaken? In other words, one cannot rely on participants or witnesses whose views may be coloured by hidden agendas, prejudices or misconceptions.

Whereas the British trial took place behind closed doors, the American one was televised live from Fairfax County, Virginia. Wallis writes: "As to whether it was fair that a woman should be forced to recount the detail of her alleged abuse in front of a live, worldwide audience, the judge shrugged: 'I don't see any good cause not to do it.'" By any standards this was a horrible decision. The trial turned into a circus. Even those of us who tried to mute it on social media were unable to avoid reports of such now notorious points of contention as the Severed Fingertip, the Bed Turd and the Bruise.

Neither party emerges as a paragon of unblemished virtue. Here is everything you ever wanted to know about Heard's attempt to smuggle the couple's Yorkshire terriers into Australia, the obfuscation over donating her $7 million divorce settlement to charity, as promised, and Depp daubing a giant penis on a painting belonging to the owners of his rented house, writing on the wall with blood from his injured finger and wrapping pieces of raw steak in his wife's ripped-up nightgown.

Wallis is scrupulously impartial, pointing out inconsistencies and contradictions without coming down firmly on either side, but if you have already made up your mind as to who the heroes and villains are in this story, there is nothing you could read that will change it.

Depp's team weaponised his loyal fanbase, turning it into a virtual mob. In the court of public opinion, Heard was bullied, humiliated and threatened with death. Wallis reports that a right-wing website spent thousands of dollars promoting pro-Depp content on social media. He doesn't comment on this other than to add, somewhat ingenuously: "We don't know why." But Depp is no longer just an actor, he's a symbol of men's rights, a bulkhead against a rising tide of domestic abuse claims and the most valuable player of a multibillion-dollar franchise in an industry that cosplays as liberal while being as reactionary as they come.

Depp's team weaponised his loyal fanbase. Heard was bullied and threatened with death

For the benefit of TV viewers as well as the jury, Depp went on a charm offensive, downplaying a well-documented abuse of alcohol and drugs that might have made his testimony less than reliable and selling himself as the straight man to a deranged gold-digging harpy. It was a celebrity death match that compelled viewers to pick sides. Overwhelmingly, they picked the wealthier, more famous and powerful combatant, and jury members (apparently ignoring the instruction to avoid social media) duly found for the plaintiff.

The tragedy is that it wasn't just actor v actress, but man v woman, with Depp providing a blueprint for other alleged abusers to sue their accusers for defamation. According to Wallis, the actor adheres to a chivalric ideal. "It is a strong and central part of my moral code," he wrote in a witness statement, "that I would never strike a woman, under any circumstances."

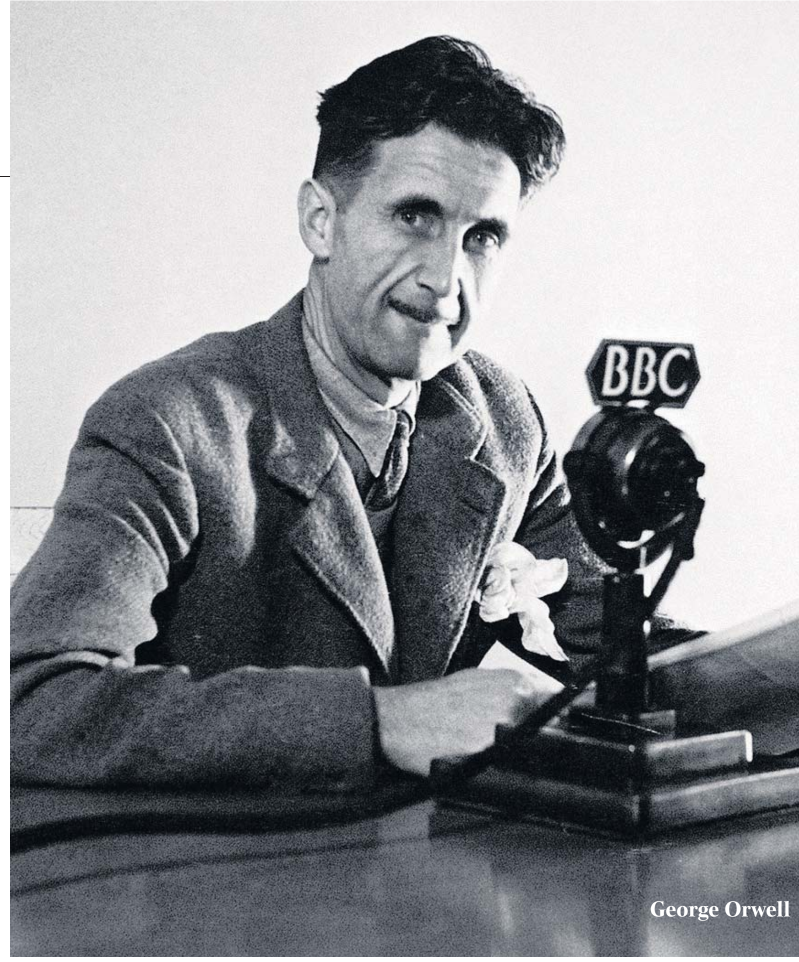
Although whatever the truth of this case, his chivalry evidently doesn't extend to the thousands of women who have now seen what might happen if they dare to claim domestic abuse. One wonders if Depp even spared them a thought in his quest for "total global humiliation" of his ex, but let's hope he feels that his legal victory was worth it.

books

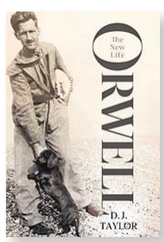
The Etonian poser who wanted to be famous

George Orwell put his career before his dying wife, his little boy and his friends. Will Lloyd on a selfish genius

ALAMY



George Orwell



Orwell
The New Life
by DJ Taylor
Constable, 608pp; £30

It is impossible to deny that there are too many books about George Orwell. There have been volumes about his garden and his sense of smell, and his attitudes to Englishness and God. There have been side-by-side studies of Orwell with Evelyn Waugh and Winston Churchill (he met Waugh once and never met Churchill), and books about his health, his religious attitudes, and his bumming-around failure years in the Suffolk coastal town of Southwold. Biographies are written about his novels and his wives. At least five new books about him will be manufactured by the Orwell industrial complex this year. Can you pick up a pencil? Have you read *Animal Farm*? Then send your proposal to the publishers. Your volume will hit the shelves in 2026: *Why Orwell is Still Quite Good*.

Orwell is more than still quite good for DJ Taylor, who wrote his first biography of the man in 2003. Two decades on, Taylor returns to his subject with *Orwell: The New Life*. On the face of it, this seems rather a strange move. How often is the director's cut better than the original? How, in a heavily populated field, can you justify yet another examination of the most celebrated British author of the past century?

Taylor has several reasons. Like many literary blokes of a certain vintage, he is an Orwell guy. The writer acted as "guide, enthusiast and mentor" to Taylor's teenage self. So Taylor doesn't find it a chore to ramble once again over well-trodden Orwellian landscapes: Burma, where Orwell was an imperial policeman; Wallington, the Hertfordshire village where in the 1930s he owned a truly awful little house with his first wife, Eileen O'Shaughnessy; Barcelona during the Spanish civil war, where he joined a Trotskyist militia and took a bullet to the throat on his journalistic quest for good copy; Blitz-era London, where he worked for the BBC and had several affairs; and Jura, in the Inner Hebrides, where, at an isolated farmhouse, a dying Orwell wrote *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and secured his reputation as the most prophetic novelist of the 20th century.

The New Life promises an expanded understanding of these events and a richer portrait of the man who lived through them. Since 2003, Taylor has had access to caches of "hitherto unknown letters" that will "alter the view posterity has come to take of Orwell and, in several instances, to make him seem a radically different person". A big claim. And for Orwell scholars, I'm sure these letters are a big deal. Among the most significant is a collection that Orwell sent to Brenda Salkeld, a games teacher, between 1931 and 1949. What do they reveal? Orwell wanted to sleep with her. "I don't think he really likes women," was her opinion of him. Did she mean as people or as sexual partners? Either way, Salkeld was magnificently indifferent to Orwell and refused to go to bed with him.

Whether this episode makes Orwell seem a "radically different person" rather depends on how much you already know about him. Almost 40 years ago, Daphne Patai published *The Orwell Mystique: A Study in Male Ideology*, a severe, well-informed account of Orwell's highly developed misogyny. Orwell's reputation as a moral authority (what Taylor calls "Orwell's personal myth") was demolished by Patai then and there.

This cheating, nasty bastard wrote the best essays in the English language

Taylor treads slightly more softly — his most devastating judgment is probably that Orwell was "no good in pubs". Taylor is, after all, writing about one of his heroes.

When it comes to the surfaces of Orwell's writing, Taylor is incisive. He notes Orwell's taxonomic habit of "placing" people and the (too often) ignored humour that "sometimes irradiated his work". He summarises most of his novels as stories of rebellions that fail, which is quite right.

Taylor tends to smother his criticism with benefit-of-the-doubt thinking. Considering Orwell's morose account of his days at prep school — which most of his contemporaries thought was exaggerated — Taylor writes of his "suspicion" that Orwell was "using selected materials from his school days to fashion an image that chimes with the kind of person he imagined himself to be".

Suspicion? Orwell's tendency to stage-manage his own mystique through his writing is the most consistent trait that emerges from any biography of him.

Ambition is not usually a word we associate with the downtrodden author of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, yet when you peel away at him, that's basically all that's left. His life was a gamble and most of Orwell's behaviour only makes sense when you realise it was motivated by the overwhelming desire, as he confided once to his childhood friend Jacintha Buddicom, to be a "FAMOUS WRITER". His family, and especially his first wife, were ground beneath this wheel.

Taylor calls this Orwell's "selfish… or rather an abstracted side". These words come as the biographer attempts to rationalise the great man's decision to flee to Europe for a few months after his wife's (probably preventable) death in 1945, leaving his newly adopted son, Richard, in the care of friends. "I felt better working," was his explanation to an acquaintance. Eileen died hideously aged 39, after years spent cleaning up after Orwell and effectively cowriting *Animal Farm* with him.

Taylor wonders whether Orwell "neglected" Eileen — a question that follows several chapters of him describing Orwell doing nothing but that. Her death, Taylor concludes evasively, "contains several loose ends that have never been satisfactorily tied up".

Again, it's worth saying: this is not new information. Even at the time, Orwell's friends, such as they were, knew he hovered somewhere between poles labelled "arsehole" and "oddball". Considering the author's death notices as they appeared in newsprint, the journalist Malcolm Muggeridge, who understood the person Orwell was, "saw in them how the legend of a human being is created". He believed that Orwell's dominant emotion was "self-pity". Already the obituaries were praising his stoicism and good common sense. Taylor knows this too. When an old colleague puts down Orwell as an Old Etonian "poser", Taylor admits that "not for the first time, Orwell had been found out".

Saint George did not want any biography to be written about him. On the evidence of *The New Life*, this was a sensible request because Orwell's life was an awful, depressing mess. It is telling that he believed the most prominent English vice to be "hypocrisy" — this supposed national trait was simply his own biggest fault. There is little relish to be had in reading about Orwell's existence.

What *The New Life* will motivate the reader to do, though, is reread Orwell's work. And there he is: this fraudulent, irritating, cheating, nasty bastard, writing the best essays in the English language. Open them to any page and you will find what Taylor calls a "mordant epigram", such as this, from his essay *Confessions of a Book Reviewer*: "Until one has some kind of professional relationship with books, one does not discover how bad the majority of them are." As true today as when it was first written, like so much else Orwell wrote.

Unless you're a masochist, Orwell's austere, horror-film life is better off forgotten. The work of the "FAMOUS WRITER" is much harder to ignore. It probably always will be.

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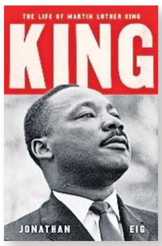
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Martin Luther King: liar, cheat and hero

This honest biography frees the civil rights leader from the 'grey mist of hagiography', says Gerard DeGroot



King
The Life of Martin Luther King
by Jonathan Eig
Simon & Schuster, 688pp; £25

At the age of 22, Martin Luther King told a girlfriend that he would demolish segregation in America. "I'm going to kill Jim Crow," he boasted. Supremely confident, he believed that "God had placed a responsibility on my shoulders." Later, when his wife complained that she had been relegated to menial tasks in the civil rights movement — like bringing up his kids — he replied: "You see, I'm called by God and you aren't." King's belief in divine selection encouraged an assumption of divine right.

It now seems sacrilege to criticise King. He has become St Martin; his name adorns streets, schools and parks around the world. Yet sanctifying the man has obscured him. "In hallowing King we have hollowed him," complains Jonathan Eig. "We've defanged him, replacing his complicated politics and philosophy with catchphrases."

Eig, a journalist turned popular historian, sets out to "recover the real man from the grey mist of hagiography". He warns us that "the portrait that emerges . . . may trouble some people". Yes, it might, but only those unfamiliar with the man. Eig's promises of new revelations are never really fulfilled — we've long known that King had feet of clay. There's not much here that's genuinely surprising, just more evidence of familiar shortcomings.

This book is not a demolition job; Eig retains enormous respect for King. Nevertheless, he diligently exposes his manifold flaws, not to mention his persistent dishonesty. For instance, while it's long been known that King plagiarised his PhD thesis, Eig magnifies the ignominy by offering additional evidence of intellectual thievery. At the age of 15, he cribbed most of his address at an Elks Club speech contest, then claimed that he won when he didn't. Many of his sermons were plagiarised, as was his first book. According to him, "words are shared assets, not personal belongings". Hmmm.

Does this matter? Perhaps not since public figures often plagiarise. Joe Biden once cribbed a Neil Kinnock speech. It nevertheless seems more distasteful when the culprit is a preacher. The same might be said of King's notorious infidelity, itself a form of theft. "F***ing's a form of anxiety reduction," he once confessed. Since he felt a great deal of anxiety, he also took a lot of lovers, including a long-term liaison with Dorothy Cotton, a fellow activist who was essentially a second wife.



SANCTIFIED Martin Luther King, centre, leading a march from Selma to Montgomery. Below: with Coretta, his longsuffering wife

STEVE SCHAPIRO/CORBIS PREMIUM HISTORICAL/GETTY IMAGES



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For King, sex was a fringe benefit of power. Cotton called him a "silly playboy" who saw romance as a competitive sport — he enjoyed stealing women away from their husbands and lovers. When it came to his infidelities, his long-suffering wife, Coretta, who deserved better, swayed between denial and fatalistic acceptance. She convinced herself that he was honest about his liaisons, when in fact he wasn't.

"When a man travels," King told a colleague, "there are bound to be women, and there have been a lot of them." Eig tries desperately to normalise this behaviour. "He was a relatively privileged man who had grown up in a time and in a culture in which adulterous activity was commonplace." That's hardly true, and anyway misses the point.

If adultery had indeed been commonplace, it would not have caused so many problems for King. Friends and colleagues grew tired of covering for him. Leaving aside what his lechery says about his attitude toward women (something difficult to leave aside), his behaviour seriously endangered his movement since so much of its success was based on the image of King as morally upright. The FBI, using wiretaps, exploited the evidence against him in an attempt to destroy the movement.

The whitewashing of King to which Eig refers is perhaps most evident in the way the history of the civil rights movement is nowadays recounted. It's often presented as a chronicle of success stretching from Rosa Parks's refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus in 1955 to the passage of the Voting Rights Act ten years later.

In fact, there were plenty of ignominious failures along the way, failures that point to King. Granted, the period was marked by significant legislative triumphs undermining segregation, but, as King would discover, it was easier to change laws than to change minds. Eradicating segregation did not eradicate prejudice.

Ironically, King's strategy of nonviolence required violence to be successful. Peaceful protesters sought to provoke a brutal response so as to project an image of martyrdom. The strategy required disciplined followers and vicious police. When either was missing, failure resulted.

King had continually to struggle with followers who found nonviolence emasculating and preferred throwing rocks. On the other side, white authorities occasionally refused to act violently. The demonstration in Albany from 1961 to 1962, for instance, failed because the police chief Laurie Pritchett cleverly resisted overreaction. "We're going to out-nonviolent them," he instructed his officers.

King was cynically aware of the value of optics. Newspaper images of beaten protesters brought support and money. When

King put children at the front of the crowd, there to be attacked by police with clubs

the Birmingham campaign of 1963 reached a stalemate, King put children at the front of the crowd, there to be attacked by police with billy clubs, fire hoses and snarling dogs. Young girls were intentionally dressed in their Sunday best, with white gloves and bobby socks. "Don't worry about your children," he assured parents, "for they are doing a job . . . for all of America." The tactic worked, but it divided the movement. "Real men don't put their children on the firing line," a disgusted Malcom X spat. I'm inclined to agree.

King's finest hour came on August 28 1963, when more than 250,000 supporters came to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. He spoke eloquently of his dreams that someday black children might be judged by their character, not by the colour of their skin. The spectacle seemed perfect, but the joyful camaraderie papered over deep cracks in the movement. Nowadays, only the uplifting parts of his speech are quoted. Yet read closely and one senses the deep pessimism of a man who had lost control. "It would be fatal," he warned, "for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment."

That's what Americans did, with the result that in the long, hot summer of 1967 cities across the US erupted in riots. "Martin Luther King is . . . finished," an activist triumphantly announced, "his nonviolence is nothing, no one is listening to it."

This book is not as enlightening as Eig likes to think, but he's not the first author to be guilty of overblown self-promotion. I found the analysis rather shallow, in particular when it came to King's speeches. The author's prose is annoyingly over-egged, particularly when Eig tries to sound like King. On the whole, however, this book serves a useful purpose in bringing a painfully accurate portrayal of King to those who might have swallowed too much hype. Eig calls King "one of the most brutally divisive figures in American history". That's certainly true, and we gain much by understanding that fact. As King admitted, "when hope diminishes, the hate is often turned most bitterly toward those who originally built up the hope".

Does it matter that King was dishonest? Yes. Are his infidelities important? Yes. Heroes are defenceless against time's erosion. Nevertheless, while it might be difficult to love King, it's still possible to admire him. He went to jail 29 times. He was beaten and stabbed. His house was bombed. Yet he persisted, paying the ultimate price when, aged 39, he was assassinated.

His successes are a measure of the man, his failures a measure of the intractable problems America faced. By the end of his life he was a wreck, depressed by his inability to change American minds. The brash confidence of his youth was gone. "I don't have any answers," he told Coretta. That's entirely understandable given that, many years later, answers remain elusive.

books

COURTESY OF KETTLE'S YARD


Jim Ede in Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard — step into an art junkie's paradise

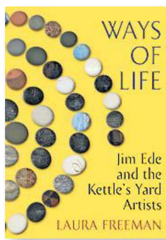
In four Cambridge slum cottages, modernist art impresario Jim Ede collected people, shells and masterpieces, says Will Gompertz

When Tate Modern opened 23 years ago, the curators were applauded for defying convention by presenting its collection of international modern art thematically rather than in the standard art-historical order of "isms".

While the plaudits were gratefully received, the curators knew the real reason behind their radical approach. They didn't have a choice. They couldn't possibly tell a coherent chronological story of international modern art because there were far too many gaps in the Tate's collection. Even when an important 20th-century artist, such as Pablo Picasso or Constantin Brancusi, was in the collection the pickings tended to be slim rather than rich.

If only the Tate bosses of the 1920s and 1930s had listened to their erstwhile curatorial colleague Jim Ede. He had dined in Paris with Picasso and hung out with Brancusi. He had implored his bosses to allow him to acquire their work for the Tate collection. "Nope" was the typical response. So sniffy were the mandarins running the Tate at the time, they would dismiss his well-informed suggestions on the grounds that if Ede thinks it good, it almost certainly isn't. The saying went that it was harder to get a picture into the Tate than it would have been to steal one of those already there.

Ede was frustrated by his superiors, as is evident in *Ways of Life*, a thorough and entertaining biography of Ede by The Times's chief art critic, Laura Freeman. Covering 95 years (from his birth in South Wales in 1895 to his death in 1990) over more than 300 pages, Freeman paints a picture of a man who wasn't simply an art lover, but an art junkie. It appears he spent every waking moment looking at art, thinking about art, buying art, writing to artists or inviting a seemingly endless stream of guests to his home so he could talk to them about art.



Ways of Life
Jim Ede and the Kettle's Yard Artists
By Laura Freeman

Jonathan Cape, 378pp; £30

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

We meet Ede the art-loving child, Ede the art-loving student, Ede the art-loving soldier, Ede the art-loving curator, Ede the art-loving author, Ede the art-loving lecturer and Ede the art-loving husband, father and grandad. Such was his dedication to beauty and form, it had taken no more than a glance at a fellow student, while studying at Edinburgh College of Art, for him to know immediately that "she would be his future wife".

And so Helene Schlapp, the student, duly became Mrs Helen Ede after discovering that Ede wouldn't take "no" for an answer (she initially rebuffed him on the grounds of his being "a dilettante and a dandy"). When it came to collecting — people or objects — Ede tended to get what he wanted.

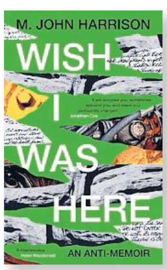
Helen comes across as a stoical, slightly conflicted figure in *Ways of Living*. A committed and caring mother to their two daughters, she was nevertheless willing to leave them in the care of others while she took off with her restless husband on an epic art-foraging foreign tour or to build a new house in Tangier.

We get to know Ede much better. "He was, by his own admission, a sensitive flower," Freeman writes. While other boys read comics and played sport, young Jim read art books and rearranged the furniture in his parents' living room. Later, he tried being an artist, but realised his talents were better suited to supporting painters and sculptors rather than taking on the mantle himself.

The only art hiatus he experienced in his long life is the subject of a particularly moving passage in which Freeman recounts the horrors Ede encountered as a soldier fighting in the rat-infested trenches of Flanders in 1915. Memories of that trauma literally came flooding back 13 years later when the banks of the river Thames broke, causing the basement of

A sparky old sci-fi dude's guide to writing and life

Like JG Ballard gone wild, this cosmic cat thinks writing should be lively and weird, says Dominic Maxwell



Wish I Was Here
An Anti-Memoir
by M John Harrison

Serpent's Tail, 213pp; £16.99

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Is this the first memoir to give more details of its author's career in the dust jacket than it does in the book? If you have picked up this illuminating, challenging, self-questioning but wildly stimulating book without knowing of its author's achievements as a sci-fi novelist and beyond, there is a handy list just under the sparky-old-dude picture of him at the back.

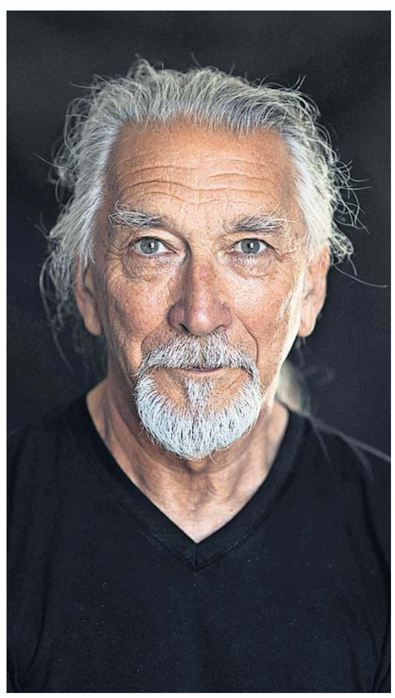
You won't catch many — or, I think I'm right in saying, any — references to sci-fi novels such as his revered, mind-bending *Kefahuchi Tract* trilogy. You might, had you read his Goldsmiths prizewinning 2020 novel *The Sunken Land Begins to Rise Again*, recognise certain biographical overlaps with the author and his characters detachedly mooching round the Thames and the Severn.

And, if you loved that book, as I did, while ever so slightly mourning the way it slipped away at the end rather than resolving, you'll find a tacit explanation of that here, one of many pearls of wisdom about writing. An editor once told Harrison that one of his books had a perfectly good plot, but he had chosen to take most of it out. "I thought that astonishingly perceptive," Harrison writes, "until I realised that it wasn't supposed to be a compliment."

The book he says the most about is his 1989 novel *Climbers*, which was inspired by his years of rock-climbing in the Lake District, although this is only to suggest that he managed to annoy even rock climbers with that one because it "wasn't a book about climbing, but a book about obsession about alienation".

OK. Enough about what isn't in *Wish I Was Here*, which is labelled, accurately if gnomically, "an anti-memoir". What Harrison, 77, attempts here is a memoir that comes from the inside out; that describes, yes, his childhood in Rugby in the late Forties and Fifties, his early job "shovelling horse shit" for £7 a week, his time as a trainee teacher and coming to London in the Sixties. All of that.

Yet throughout Harrison never stops reminding us that this is writing and wondering what its rules are, what its purpose is and how it can do its job. Never has a writer been so open about the inability of writers to capture reality without distorting it — but he's out to try anyway. So from the off, *Wish I Was Here* is a book uninterested in small talk. Harrison has barely introduced


CRAFTING HIS ART **M John Harrison**

himself before he is asking if writing is a path to enlightenment or an escape route.

For those obsessed with the art and craft of writing, there are paragraphs here that will make you want to grab your friends so you can read them out to them whole. Or, more likely, want to take a picture of and send to your friends.

These are things like: "For God's sake, never use a metaphor and then explain it." Or: "You can assume a world from so little, and readers will. So I'm more interested in

> **'I don't want to write puzzle stories that can be decoded to the correct answer'**

economy than encyclopaedism, in how little you can get away with rather than how much you can cram in."

Harrison writes clean, vivid sentences that sometimes add up to paragraphs you need to read again to get their full measure. Sometimes, in illustrating his thoughts — and his thoughts about those thoughts — he can be one cosmic cat. Occasionally, you want him to just get on with it. More often, you're glad of the generosity of spirit, a determination to do things his way only, then to analyse his determination to do things his way only.

He mentions JG Ballard several times. Harrison surely could have had some of Ballard's popularity if he had trimmed his sails a bit. As his remark about his

the Tate Gallery — where Ede worked as a curator — to fill with water up to 10ft deep. He worked day and night to save the nation's paintings as he had once saved lives. A year later, he broke down.

Throughout the book we are introduced to the core group of artists whose work Ede promoted and collected, from Alfred Wallis to Barbara Hepworth. It is an authorial exercise in priming the narrative canvas for the biography's grand finale: Ede's late flowering as a visionary art impresario.

At a time when most men in their sixties were retiring, Ede was just starting out on what would become his life's crowning achievement: the transformation, in the mid-1950s, of four slum cottages in Cambridge into a light-filled home for him, Helen and his gorgeous collection of largely British 20th-century modernist art. He called it Kettle's Yard, a private art gallery in a domestic setting, which he made available to students between 2pm and 4pm during term time.

Visitors were greeted with open arms and a private tour in which he would point out the subtle relationships he had curated between the artworks. It was more than an act of generosity, it was an act of love. As is this biography.

The author is a Cambridge art-history graduate who, I sense, adores Kettle's Yard and the man who created it. That's not to say she lets him off the hook. Ede could be a "martinet", at times not wholly transparent in his art dealings. But these are blemishes on the surface of her portrait of Ede: a curious chap in many ways, but a man whose contribution to the appreciation and enjoyment of art is greater than most.

I, too, am a fan of Ede and Kettle's Yard. Even more so now that I have read Freeman's excellently paced biography.

Will Gompertz is the author of *See What You're Missing: 31 Ways Artists Notice the World — and How You Can Too* (Viking)

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editor suggests, though, he wouldn't or couldn't. He wants his stories to be pure, to be what they are, to hold the attention through their surprises rather than their solutions. "I don't want to write puzzle stories that can be decoded to the correct answer," he writes.

Since this is a book that maps its own course, you won't always know where you are in it. But as he turns his sardonic eye on the history industry, the knackered 1950s and its dreams of an automated future, zombies as guilt-free hate objects and scores of other seeming tangents, he keeps you gripped like your favourite professor going off on one again.

It's sometimes enigmatic, rewards rereading and will probably find its keenest constituency in other writers — Jonathan Coe, Helen Macdonald, William Gibson and Robert Macfarlane are among those lined up to sing his praises on the cover — or anyone who wishes to dig beneath the process of fiction, which, he suggests, is in danger of occluding reality in an "age of fantasy" too taken with the notion of narratives.

Does this make it sound arcane? Well, he likes the weird in writing, while acknowledging that if you actively aim for weird you probably come up with something else, something inert. And really, whatever his detours, his aim is to write something that is alive. The rest is flummery. "I wanted to write a book about writing a book," he writes.

Yet by risking navel-gazing in a genre in which, after all, that's the game, he has come up with something unusual and unusually enlivening.



Joseph and Magda Goebbels

Zelda and F Scott Fitzgerald

Christopher Isherwood and WH Auden

Alma Mahler

Marlene Dietrich

Bonking in a time of barbarism

The darkening 1930s are evoked through the passions of writers and artists. Review by John Maier

In *Love in a Time of Hate* the German writer and art historian Florian Illies takes a Sgt Pepper approach to history. The past becomes a motley group photograph of improbably acquainted famous faces. Illies attempts to evoke the collapse of the Weimar Republic and the rise of Nazism through an assemblage of interweaving vignettes about the love lives of witnesses to the era.

His ill-assorted cast includes Thomas Mann, Simone de Beauvoir, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Christopher Isherwood, Magda Goebbels, Billy Wilder, Kaiser Wilhelm II, Alma Mahler, Joseph Stalin, Coco Chanel, Salvador Dalí, Konrad Adenauer, Hannah Arendt, Le Corbusier, Walter Benjamin, Wittgenstein — and with a display of stamina that is at times staggering, he enlarges it until the reader is drowned and left for dead in a sea of Mitteleuropean celebrity.

"The list," as Illies concedes at one point, "goes on and on." And those are just the famous characters who move in and out of the narrative frame by means of often agonisingly twee authorial cues ("And how are things with Erich Maria Remarque? All quiet on the romantic front").

In addition to these, each vignette introduces the reader to dozens more auxiliary figures, all related to one another by complicated genealogies of romantic entanglement that cause them frequently to change surname. For example, on page 145 the reader is, without apology, introduced to a minor character called Hans Ludwig David Wilhelm Friedrich Heinrich Graf Yorck von Wartenburg. These are developments that inspire neither "hate" nor "love" in even the most well-intentioned reader, but instead a slowly rising apathy.

Partly as a result of the book's organising conceit, and Illies's often arch prose style, *Love in a Time of Hate* achieves something that is really rather impressive — turning the great moral dramas of the 20th century into breathless melodrama. On almost every page one historical figure or another is contemplating suicide, arranging a backstreet abortion, falling in love, being pulled out of the path of a speeding car or setting fire to their life's work.

In one wholly representative sentence, we are told that "after having an affair with her own father, Anaïs Nin rekindles her previous Parisian liaisons — first with her husband, second with her therapist and lastly with Henry Miller".

In another, we learn that "Mopsa [Sternheim] is still madly in love with [Gottfried] Benn, who three years earlier had pumped her stomach of the Veronal sedative she had taken to commit suicide". With every maximally compressed revelation there is scarcely a moment for recovery.

The effect of such fleeting contact with the subjects is sometimes unintentionally comical, such as when we learn that on a "trip down memory lane" Marlene Dietrich "re-immerses herself in bohemianism, meatballs and the Berlin dialect". The perverse effect of the attempt to sustain this unrelenting high drama is actually to estrange us from the characters whose tragedies and triumphs are presented in such dizzyingly abbreviated form.

It is a shame because there are occasional glimpses of the funnier, more enjoyable and psychologically acute book that *Love in a Time of Hate* might have been.

In one of the few moments of light relief, we learn that one evening "Scott [Fitzgerald] tells [Ernest] Hemingway in a choked voice that Zelda has told him that his penis is too small. Hemingway suggests that they go to the toilets right away — he wants to take a closer look. And in his expert opinion, everything is perfectly fine. But Fitzgerald can't be consoled… One more reason to drink."

Elsewhere, the incorrigibly marriage-orientated Alma Mahler contrives to seduce the priest who is supposed to be performing her most recent annulment ("he tells her that, strictly speaking, the vow of celibacy only really applies when a priest is wearing a cassock"); and another prewar union, that between Thomas Mann's lesbian daughter and "the gay British poet WH Auden", designed as a means to secure her a British passport, faces "slight complications" when "the groom cannot tell Ledbury registry office either his bride's age or… her surname".

When it comes to negotiating the vicissitudes of romantic and political upheaval, some of Illies's subjects prove strikingly more adaptable than others.

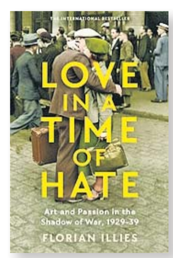
The artist manqué and prolific lesbian Mercedes de Acosta embarked on a campaign of sexual conquest that was so impressive Truman Capote recognised her achievement by creating a "game called International Round Robin that counts the beds linking specific people" (Mercedes is "the trump card because she can be combined with everyone from Pope John XXIII to John F Kennedy").

Of the scores of prewar exiles, Walter Benjamin is perhaps the most forlorn; stranded in Ibiza, he "roams around restlessly all day long, sleeping on a simple sheet spread on the floor and washing in the sea. The villagers nickname him El Miserable, the Wretched One."

Back at the Mercedes de Acosta end of the fun-spectrum is the American travel writer William Seabrook, who, holed up at the French resort of Sanary-sur-Mer as part of a rather decadent community of émigré artists, used the aimless summer of 1933 to satisfy "his sadomasochistic appetites in his huge villa directly across the road from the Huxleys [by] suspending his trussed-up girlfriend, Marjorie Muir Worthington, from the ceiling".

Unfortunately, these proto-comic flashes of entertainment are sparsely distributed and partially realised throughout the text. Illies, who used a similar approach in his bestselling history of prewar Europe, *1913: The Year before the Storm*, has a slightly Teutonic habit of drawing a stern line under any narrative development that promises to become too prurient or obviously entertaining.

It leaves one wondering who the intended reader of this odd book is. Anyone superficial enough to have their attention sufficiently engaged by the mere fact of so many famous characters being mutually romantically involved with one another will surely lack the patience to see the thing through to the bitter end.



Love in a Time of Hate
Art and Passion in the Shadow of War, 1929-39
by Florian Illies, trans. by Simon Pare

Profile, 336pp; £20

On almost every page, someone is considering suicide, arranging a backstreet abortion or falling in love

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

MAY JAMES/REUTERS

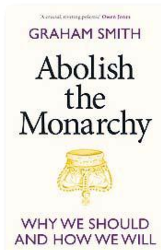


Graham Smith protesting outside Westminster Abbey, London, in March

books

Mr Angry's battle against the royals

Some good points for a republic are made, but they are buried by the author's boiling rage, says Yuan Yi Zhu



Abolish the Monarchy
Why We Should and How We Will
by Graham Smith
Torva, 272pp; £16.99

Graham Smith is the chief executive of Republic, the United Kingdom's foremost anti-monarchy campaign group. As such, he is the public face of what is arguably the least successful political movement in British history. But with the monarchy's declining popularity (although it still commands a comfortable majority in polls) and republican sentiments on the rise across many of the King's realms, Smith believes that his luck might be turning. Hence this book, which aims to explain why "the monarchy is bad for Britain" and how the country can "journey to a parliamentary republic".

In the interests of transparency, I should declare that, given my politics, I was never particularly likely to be won over by the book's main argument. In any case, according to Smith, "committed monarchists, I'm afraid, aren't on our radar, other than as foils with whom to debate the issue". And he means it too: he recently told me to "f*** off, you toad" on Twitter, for which I bear him no particular ill-will.

The book has its virtues. When he is not abusing people online, Smith writes engagingly and has a flair for weaving together narratives. He knows a lot about the monarchy — after all, he has dedicated most of his adult life to opposing it — and scores some good points, such as when he debunks the idea that the monarchy is good for tourism (although the quality of Buckingham Palace's audio tour guide, a subject on which he has strong opinions, seems rather beside the point).

But a couple of chapters into the book I felt the need to wipe the spittle off my face. Queen Victoria is said to have complained that William Gladstone addressed her as if she were a public meeting; every sentence of this book feels as though its author is shouting at you in your face.

Smith is angry, I mean really angry about the monarchy, and he wants you to be angry with him. I have met survivors of war crimes who spoke of their tormentors with greater equanimity than Smith speaks of the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha-Windsor, for which he clearly feels nothing but hatred.

Why the rage? In the introduction he writes: "I've never heard a good argument for the monarchy." Yet most of the British public keeps falling for these bad arguments and an institution that "rests on an entirely different set of values… that are the antithesis of those held by the British public". If I were in his shoes and thought that most of my fellow countrymen were irredeemable idiots, I would be hopping mad too.

The problem is that, beyond a certain point, anger ceases to be a productive force. Smith is so angry that instead of sticking to arguing from first principles about the unsuitability of hereditary monarchy as a form of government, he misses no opportunity to abuse the occupants of the throne and their relatives. In the process, he buries his few good arguments with many terrible ones.

Princess Anne is called a layabout for undertaking only 214 engagements in 2022

Thus, not only are the royals not good for tourism, they are also racist, sexist, corrupt (although he admits none of the conduct he criticises is actually illegal) and lazy — a claim that will surprise those of us who remember how Queen Elizabeth II, not even a year ago, rose from her deathbed to receive in audience the most unworthy of her 15 British prime ministers. Princess Anne is faulted as a layabout for undertaking only 214 engagements in 2022; she is also a decade over her state pension age.

Almost as an afterthought, towards the end of the book Smith tries to lay out a positive vision for his republican project. He asks us to imagine a successful republican referendum, after which "we gather in squares around the country to celebrate the inauguration of our new constitution", with a preamble written by wordsmiths such as Benjamin Zephaniah. The more he repeated that the British republic will be joyous and uplifting, the more I disbelieved him and thought of when republicans banned Christmas.

As I was finishing this book, I was reminded of a revealing incident recently. Shortly before the coronation, the King and Queen visited Liverpool, never a hotbed of royalism at the best of times, for some engagement or other at a local library. A group of Republic protesters, distinctly middle-aged and middle-class, gathered in front of the building, holding aloft their distinctive yellow placards and shouting: "Not my king."

As it happened, a group of excited local schoolchildren stood on the other side of the road to welcome the royal couple. Perhaps annoyed at the killjoys opposite them, they began to chant in unison "He's our king! He's our king!" at the protesters. A journalist filmed it and the clip went viral. Republic's reaction was to accuse the BBC of lying. In any case, it said, the children had no business being there cheering their king.

One does not need to be a very acute political analyst to know that, if you find yourself trading barbs with a crowd of taunting schoolchildren, you have already lost. I don't know if the UK will be a monarchy a century from now. What I do know after reading this book is that the House of Windsor will continue to reign over us for as long as Smith remains the angry, sour public face of its republican movement. Britain awaits its Cromwell yet.

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

paperbacks

Colditz: Prisoners of the Castle by Ben Macintyre *Penguin, £10.99*
The history of the notorious camp Colditz is usually told as a tale of derring-do, "prisoners of war, with moustaches firmly set on stiff upper lips, defying the Nazis". The Times columnist Ben Macintyre tells a more complicated tale: the camp was "a miniature replica of pre-war society, only stranger". "Told with sensitivity and insight, with an eye for telling detail," said our reviewer.

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver *Faber, £9.99*
Barbara Kingsolver won the Pulitzer prize for fiction this month for her retelling of *David Copperfield* set in the valleys of southwest Virginia at the height of America's opioid crisis. "Daring, entertaining, symbolic and highly readable — and therefore authentically Dickensian," our reviewer wrote of this big, bustling novel full of characters and life.

Abyss: World on the Brink, The Cuban Missile Crisis 1962 by Max Hastings *William Collins, £10.99*
This detailed, punchily written account of the Cuban missile crisis is a reminder to be afraid: bellicosity, paranoia and mutual misunderstanding really did bring the world to the brink of nuclear war. Max Hastings "writes with great confidence and wisdom about events he lived through," was the verdict of the historian Gerard DeGroot.

I Used to Live Here Once: The Haunted Life of Jean Rhys by Miranda Seymour
William Collins, £10.99
Jean Rhys, the West Indian-born author of *Wide Sargasso Sea,* had a rackety life — too much booze, too many bad men, too little money and so much disappointment. *I Used to Live Here Once* is the title of a ghost story she wrote late in her life. This beautifully written memoir's title is well chosen, capturing ideas of regret, nostalgia, longing, ghosts and echoes. "Seymour gives us Rhys in all her glory," our reviewer wrote.


Barbara Kingsolver

Magnificent Rebels: The First Romantics and the Invention of the Self by Andrea Wulf
John Murray, £12.99
A brief saunter down the streets of the German university town of Jena in 1796 might afford you more glimpses of genius than larger cities could muster in a century: the poet Goethe, the playwright Schiller, the scientist Alexander von Humboldt and more. "A novelettish portrait of disappointing soups and foundering marriages and a panorama of the set's ambition 'to romanticise the entire world'," James Marriott wrote.

What I Wish I'd Known When I Was Young: The Art and Science of Growing Up by Rachel Sylvester and Alice Thomson
William Collins, £10.99
Rachel Sylvester and Alice Thomson, both Times writers, noticed a pattern when interviewing successful people: they had often faced loss and difficulty as children, which drove them on to greatness. The pattern led to a podcast, *Past Imperfect,* in which the pair interviewed luminaries ranging from Mary Portas to Sajid Javid to find the seeds of their adult characters in the toughest moments of their childhoods. The resulting book weaves together the interviews "to form a punchy portrait of how character is forged in adversity," James Riding wrote.

MIKE STYER



The novelist Rebecca F Kuang

What if you could steal someone else's success?

Susie Goldsbrough on a wicked satire of the literary hype machine



Yellowface
by Rebecca F Kuang
Borough, 350pp; £16.99

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Here's a problem that hardly anyone can relate to: what happens when you have so much success at such a young age that you're in danger of becoming incredibly annoying? This, I imagine, was the question curdling away inside Rebecca F Kuang as she sat down to write this novel.

In America, and among the big worldwide audience for fantasy fiction, Kuang is a prodigy. The splashy *Poppy War* adventure trilogy inspired by a patchwork of Chinese history won a slew of fantasy awards, while *Babel*, set in a steampunky Oxford and a stylish leader in last year's pack of "dark academia" novels, made the Sunday Times bestseller list. Kuang has a master's from Cambridge and another from Oxford where, in 2022, she gave the annual JRR Tolkien lecture on fantasy literature. She is now back in the US, at Yale to be precise, studying for a PhD in East Asian languages and literature. She is 26.

So picture her hunched over her laptop, thinking: "How the hell do I pull this off? How do I slip from fantasy into lit-fic — the genre of real life — without nauseating readers with tales of my own staggering success?" Then, like a sudden snowfall, the solution comes to her. She will turn herself into a fictional character, a beautiful, Chinese-American literary wunderkind, and on page 21 choke to death on a pancake.

This might not be the real origin story of *Yellowface*, a crime caper that's also a wicked satire of publishing, racial politics and icky internet culture, but, as its narrator, Junie Hayward, might say, there's more than one way to tell a story. This one begins in a bar in Washington as Athena Liu and her plainer, less successful, venomously jealous old college pal Junie celebrate Athena's Netflix deal. Athena is in town for a creative writing fellowship at Georgetown. Junie is there because "my mother's cousin owned a condo in Rosslyn that she would rent to me for the cost of utilities if I remembered to water her plants".

A few pages and a few too many pandan pancakes later, Athena lies bulging-eyed on her apartment floor and Junie arrives home dazed and shaken and with the only copy of Athena's manuscript stashed in her bag. And so the great literary swindle begins. Junie polishes up *The Last Front* — Athena's First World War epic about the Chinese workers who served alongside the Allies on the Western Front — and sells it under a racially ambiguous pseudonym for a skull-cracking advance. Suddenly, she too is a golden girl.

As the publishing industry fawns, Kuang takes a lovingly sharpened skewer to the language of slathering adulation that dominates social media. "THIS IS SO GORGEOUS I WILL DIE!!!" When fortune's wheel turns and Junie's hype turns to hate, Kuang has just as much fun mimicking the sharper side of Twitter's tongue.

In telling the story from Junie's magnificently self-justifying point of view, Kuang tosses around slightly tired arguments about authenticity and fiction. Here's a white girl who has literally stolen — the metaphor ain't subtle, but it's effective — a Chinese story for her own profit. But aren't all storytellers at some level thieves? You may remember The New York Times's viral feature Who Is the Bad Art Friend? about a fight between two writers over a "stolen" story. But if a balanced culture wars debate is what Kuang is going for, she overdoes the stage make-up with Junie, whose meanness, narcissism and casual racism strains, if not credulity, then certainly sympathy.

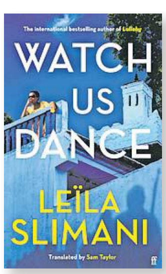
Yellowface is based on a smart and fun idea, but lacks structure and a bit of heart. The final twist clangs down the pages towards us, in contrast to the ending of Jean Hanff Korelitz's recent novel *The Plot*, to which *Yellowface* bears a strong resemblance, possibly a knowing one. As a thriller, it loses momentum through the relentless and repetitive cycle of internet vitriol — a faithful depiction, sure, but not a dynamic one. The poisonous online atmosphere the novel inhabits leaves you feeling dry-mouthed and sour. I read fiction to escape the flatness and dumbness of Twitter, not to swim in it.

The real problem is Junie's motivation for her absolutely deranged behaviour — that is, her passionate desire to write fiction. Kuang is correct, I think, that making art is a grubby business often muddied by fear, impecuniousness and ego. It would be irredeemable were it not in service of creating something truthful and gleaming.

But in *Yellowface* I don't believe in the art. Junie spends a lot of time telling us how important writing is to her, but in language so clichéd, sentimental — "Writing is the closest thing we have to real magic" — and mercenary that it's impossible to believe. There is one moment, just one, where she sounds like someone who actually gets it: "When you're in the zone, drafting doesn't feel like an effortful artifice. It feels like remembering." I wish Kuang had given us more of that.

Kuang's own writing is perfectly serviceable, but never leaps upwards into fresh, cool air with the force of originality, brutality or just plain old beauty. So I feel a bit like the university admissions tutor in Martin Amis's *The Rachel Papers* who turns to his glib young interviewee and says: "Mr Highway… do you like literature?"

Morocco's summer of love



Watch Us Dance
by Leïla Slimani, trans. Sam Taylor
Faber, 336pp; £16.99

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

The author gracefully combines her family history with the end of French colonial rule. By Claire Allfree

Forget the debauchery of Woodstock. In Morocco, the summer of love and its "drop out" dress code were so far from the look the newly independent country aspired to that the authorities in Tangier were ordered not to allow young men with long hair into the country. Cue customs officers threatening the disembarking hippies with clippers. This is just one of the many casually glistening backdrop details in this second instalment in Leïla Slimani's engrossing trilogy, which combines the story of Morocco's emergence from French colonial rule with her family history.

Slimani, who is of French-Moroccan heritage, won the 2016 Prix Goncourt with *Lullaby*, an electrifying domestic noir about a killer nanny whose artful shock tactics operated in lockstep with the reader's appalled, voyeuristic fascination. She takes the opposite approach in this novel and its precursor, *The Country of Others*, eschewing the sensational effects of thrillers for a much deeper, more considered exploration of her characters' inner lives. Some engage with the battle between youthful idealism and authoritarian repression that will reshape their country; some stand aloof.

Amine, the struggling farmer of the first novel, can now afford a swimming pool (if gardens are symbols of innocence, then the brutal clearing of his wife Mathilde's beloved flower beds to make way for the pool casts an ominous shadow at the start of *Watch Us Dance*). His daughter, Aicha, a social and political naif, is studying in her mother's native Alsace to become a doctor. His listless, underachieving son, Selim, will lose himself in the sexual revolution, not to mention in the drug-sick delusions of the hippie invasion that is turning parts of rural Morocco into hell holes.



A LIGHT TOUCH Leïla Slimani

This is a novel that glides along with swan-like grace thanks to Slimani's skilful use of the third person as she slips in and out of disparate perspectives while keeping her authorial presence to an absolute minimum. Like trespassers we bear witness to her characters' many flaws and eavesdrop on their most private thoughts — young Aicha in a hairdresser's chair in Alsace, fretting about having her "frizzy" hair straightened for the first time; Mathilde, an educated clinician trapped in a faithless marriage, wondering how much of her life she had devoted to boiling water for her family.

At the same time Slimani's fluent jump-cutting between scenes allows us only the most fleeting access to these private places. She has the novelist's rare skill of being able to nail a life in a single observation; for example, Omar, Amine's brother, is a policeman whose job is to "make things that should not be seen disappear", including the bloodied bodies of student protesters after a riot.

Most pleasingly, this novel wears its state-of-the-nation status with a light touch. There are no pompous declamations here, just glimpses of momentous events witnessed by us in tandem with her characters, most notably the televised execution of those who staged a failed coup against King Hassan II, which the politically disengaged Amine and Mathilde watch aghast. Slimani is quietly devastating on how we are unwittingly complicit with history.

Many years later Aicha's husband, a former Marxist revolutionary, will look back on his marriage and this bloody period in his country's story. "How," he wonders with a mix of nostalgia and shame, "could they have been so happy?"

books

A knife chase at the racecourse



James Owen's picks also feature Harlem gangsters, moles and an Aussie opal mine

thrillers

Book of the month

The End of the Game by Holly Watt *Raven, 368pp; £16.99*

The journalist Casey Benedict spots a man being hunted through the Royal Ascot crowds by knife-wielding pursuers. Holly Watt, the author, shows her flair for action by intercutting the chase with commentary from the race under way as Benedict uses her wits to save the intended target.

This plunges her into the murkier reaches of online sports betting. Big data is being used to make big money, and someone is fixing football matches to tip the odds in their favour. Benedict goes undercover in Marbella and Budapest, learning about how AI could be used to control global events. While she is willing to put herself in harm's way for the sake of the story, she begins to contemplate the collateral damage she has inflicted with past scoops, notably one about an MP who is now homeless. What price journalism as a blood sport?

The rare combination of ethics and thrills in Watt's series remains potent, climaxing here atop a cable car in the Alps. You either got it or you don't, and for my money, Watt absolutely has.

The Man in the Corduroy Suit by James Wolff *Bitter Lemon, 224pp; £9.99*

More pangs of conscience in James Wolff's third, characteristically sophisticated spy novel. As the series title, *The Discipline Files*, implies, Wolff's interest is in what happens when spooks have had enough of the job's constraints. As with Mick Herron, his intent is to subvert the politics of bureaucracy.

The eponymous man in the corduroy suit is the hitherto dedicated interrogator Leonard Flood, who is ordered to discover if a retired vetting officer, Willa Karlsson, was a Soviet mole. The deeper he digs, the more he comes to believe it is he who is really under suspicion, and to sympathise with Karlsson.

The human factor is at work — like some notable names in the genre, Wolff has direct experience of the intelligence world — and farce might be the most appropriate description of the contortions required by espionage. Forgive us our foolish ways, Wolff may be saying, but what should we do when even the gatekeepers lose their sense of perspective?

Viper's Dream by Jake Lamar
No Exit, 192pp; £9.99

In the 1960s, the gangster Clyde Morton, aka the Viper, is holed up in the apartment of the jazz-loving baroness Nica Rothschild. While they wait for the cops to come and arrest him for murder, she asks him what his three wishes would be.

Viper uses the time to look back over the 30 years that have passed since he failed to make it as the new Louis Armstrong after arriving in Harlem. He became a ruthless enforcer, making his fortune selling marijuana to musicians. All the while he yearned for a woman called Yolanda.

Lamar populates his hard-boiled plot, which borrows its title from a Django Reinhardt track, with cameos from Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. The mise en scène is lovingly recreated, but if the debt to Chester Himes is apparent, the violent twists are Lamar's own.

The Scarlet Papers by Matthew Richardson *Michael Joseph, 592pp; £14.99*

The promise of Max Archer's life is fading. He failed to be recruited by MI6, his career as a historian has stalled and his wife is leaving him. Then he is handed a manuscript that could transform his prospects.

It purports to be a memoir written by a former senior British spy, Scarlet King, who began her career in postwar Vienna, working under Kim Philby. If it is genuine, it would be publishing dynamite, not least because it suggests that Scarlet King was secretly a red queen. Yet others want it, to suppress its contents or expose them.

There are tips of the hat by Matthew Richardson to *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and *The Day of the Jackal* as the innocent Archer runs for his life. While there's some unevenness to the writing, the likelihood of more adventures to come for his hero is a shot in the arm for thriller fans.

Moscow Exile by John Lawton
Grove, 448pp; £16.99

The latest in John Lawton's Joe Wilderness series relates a parallel history of the mid-20th century. Charlotte Churchill, evidently inspired by Winston Churchill's daughter-in-law Pamela Harriman, becomes a society figure in postwar Washington. Yet she is a Russian agent (another one), as is the roguish charmer Charlie Leigh-Hunt who, like his MI6 predecessor at the DC embassy, Guy Burgess, is soon under suspicion. Lawton is more intrigued, however, by the life that Leigh-Hunt and other defectors might have led once they fled to Moscow.

A reckoning of sorts takes place when Joe Holderness — known as Wilderness — pitches up in Red Square to winkle from Leigh-Hunt the identity of his former handler. The chumminess of those on different sides of the Cold War, more bothered by betraying friends than countries, may be accurate, but it means that *Moscow Exile* relies on a fine sense of place rather than genuine tension.

Outback by Michael Davies
Collins Crime Club, 304pp; £16.99

Outback, written by Michael Davies to mark the centenary of the thriller writer Desmond Bagley, is a tale of duplicity and resilience set in an Australian opal mine. It's faithful to Bagley's style and settings, and should lead to glasses being raised by those who lapped up the great man's books.

To order copies go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Rereading The Blue Flower by Penelope Fitzgerald

This novel about a romantic poet is the masterpiece of a late-blooming author, says Charlotte Stroud

Aspiring women writers, dealing with mounds of dirty laundry, listening with one ear to the mewlings of a toddler and with the other to a podcast that briefly satiates the starved mind, often take heart from the story of Penelope Fitzgerald. She brought up three children almost singlehandedly and witnessed her home (a barge on the Thames) sink twice. At 58 she published her first book and won the Booker prize at 63. But hers is a story likely to inspire false hope; it conceals a long, solitary apprenticeship of reading, rereading and teaching literature.

In her biography of Fitzgerald, Hermione Lee writes that in her teaching notes "you see the future novelist having a conversation with her books". It wasn't, then, that Fitzgerald was late to start, but rather that she was delayed in finishing, so thoroughly did she undertake her responsibilities as apprentice.

After the publication of her biography of the pre-Raphaelite painter Edward Burne-Jones, in 1975, the others came in quick succession. Over 20 years she wrote nine novels and three biographies as well as short stories, essays and reviews. But her final novel, *The Blue Flower*, published in 1995 when she was 79, is her masterpiece, the first book by a foreigner to win the US National Book Critics Circle award.

Set in late 18th-century Prussia, it's based on the life of Friedrich von Hardenberg, or Fritz as his family called him, the German Romantic poet who would later rename himself Novalis. It is the story of a genius, before he is widely recognised as such, and his quest for the unattainable blue flower, that Romantic symbol of longing. It is also a story about the women (and girls) in his life, such as 12-year-old Sophie von Kühn, whom Fritz fell in love with at the age of 22, and about whom historians have been conspicuously incurious.

The Blue Flower is a deceptively spare novel, but in scope it is omnivorous. Folded into the story of Hardenberg is the broader tale of Prussia on the brink of change. The Napoleonic wars loomed; a group of young radicals from Jena university, including Hardenberg, believed that a new golden age was within their grasp; and doctors claimed that "to be alive was not a natural state", prescribing opium and alcohol to keep the constitution in balance. It was a world in flux, but Fitzgerald, *left*, holds it still long enough for us to inhabit it.



How she distils 18th-century Saxony into 55 short chapters remains a mystery. But the clue is in the detail. If finding *le mot juste* (the right word) was Flaubert's guiding principle, then Fitzgerald's is finding *le détail juste*. Whole scenes spring up from one judiciously chosen image. She never tells us that it is winter, but shows us rows of cabbage stumps and glasses of schnapps, "which harboured in every coarse, consoling mouthful the memory of the heat of the summer". A whole fair is summoned in the single image of a stall selling Kesselfleisch, "the ears, snout and strips of fat from the pig's neck boiled with peppermint schnapps". Although Fritz, lost in his world of ideas, does not value "particulars", Fitzgerald, like the women in her novel, holds them in the highest regard.

The women in *The Blue Flower* function as a counterbalance to the Romantic tendency toward abstraction. Karoline Just, the eminently sensible woman who despite herself falls in love with Fritz, asks: "What is wrong with particulars? Someone has to look after them." As Fitzgerald is at pains to show, without the women who looked after the particulars — drowning unwanted kittens, making sausages, beating flax, slaughtering pigs, birthing children — there would be no Romantic genius.

Fitzgerald managed to pass herself off as a dotty old woman

If, as the novel's epigraph states, "novels arise out of the shortcomings of history", for Fitzgerald these gaps are woman-shaped. *The Blue Flower* is as much a story about the women who "saved [Novalis] from himself" and those who, "burning like a flame", might have been poets too were they not knee-deep in the particulars.

Those who have read *The Blue Flower* will find it inconceivable that Fitzgerald managed to pass herself off as a dotty old woman who wrote "sort of novels" in between making jam. That she wore a flannel dress and carried a floral shopping bag to the Booker ceremony in 1979 when she won the prize for her novel *Offshore* might have had something to do with her reputation. But, as she wrote of the poet Stevie Smith: "Eccentricity can go very well… with shrewdness." She had them all fooled.

bestsellers

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Paperback Fiction

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2 (1) The Three Dahlias Katy Watson *Constable £9.99*
3 (new) The House of Sky and Breath Sarah J Maas *Bloomsbury £9.99*
4 (3) Memphis Tara M Stringfellow *John Murray £9.99*
5 (2) Lessons in Chemistry Bonnie Garmus *Transworld £9.99*
6 (10) Demon Copperhead Barbara Kingsolver *Faber £9.99*
7 (4) Shrines of Gaiety Kate Atkinson *Transworld £9.99*
8 (5) Trespasses Louise Kennedy *Bloomsbury £8.99*
9 (9) The Romantic William Boyd *Penguin £9.99*
10 (6) Young Mungo Douglas Stuart *Picador £9.99*

Hardback Fiction

1 (new) The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece Tom Hanks *Hutchinson Heinemann £22*
2 (new) Atlas Lucinda Riley & Harry Whittaker *Macmillan £22*
3 (1) Happy Place Emily Henry *Viking £14.99*
4 (new) Queen Charlotte Julia Quinn, Shonda Rhimes *Piatkus £22*
5 (new) Small Worlds Caleb Azumah Nelson *Viking £14.99*
6 (3) The Hike Lucy Clarke *HarperCollins £14.99*
7 (2) On His Majesty's Secret Service Charlie Higson *Ian Fleming Publications £12.99*
8 (8) Fourth Wing Rebecca Yarros *Piatkus £20*
9 (6) August Blue Deborah Levy *Hamish Hamilton £18.99*
10 (10) Atalanta Jennifer Saint *Wildfire £16.99*

Paperback Non-fiction

1 (1) The Lost Rainforests of Britain Guy Shrubsole *William Collins £10.99*
2 (new) Landlines Raynor Winn *Penguin £10.99*
3 (3) BBC Proms 2023 *BBC Proms £8.99*
4 (2) Femina: A New History of the Middle Ages Janina Ramirez *WH Allen £10.99*
5 (8) Chums Simon Kuper *Profile £9.99*
6 (new) Abyss: The Cuban Missile Crisis 1962 Max Hastings *William Collins £10.99*
7 (7) Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne Katherine Rundell *Faber £10.99*
8 (4) The Hairy Dieters' Eat Well Every Day *Seven Dials £18.99*
9 (—) A Fortunate Woman: A Country Doctor's Story Polly Morland *Picador £9.99*
10 (6) Atomic Habits James Clear *Random House Business £17.99*

Hardback Non-fiction

1 (new) Unbreakable Ronnie O'Sullivan *Seven Dials £22*
2 (4) Ultra-Processed People Chris van Tulleken *Cornerstone £22*
3 (1) The Future of Geography Tim Marshall *Elliott & Thompson £20*
4 (3) Bored of Lunch Nathan Anthony *Ebury £18.99*
5 (2) Johnson at 10: The Inside Story Anthony Seldon & Raymond Newell *Atlantic £25*
6 (5) How Westminster Works… and Why It Doesn't Ian Dunt *Weidenfeld & Nicolson £18.99*
7 (new) I'm Not as Well as I Thought I Was Ruby Wax *Penguin Life £18.99*
8 (—) Spare Prince Harry *Bantam £28*
9 (new) But What Can I Do? Alastair Campbell *Hutchinson Heinemann £22*
10 (6) Surviving to Drive Guenther Steiner *Bantam £20*

Waterstones THE NUMBER IN PARENTHESES REPRESENTS CHART POSITIONS LAST WEEK. DATA SUPPLIED BY WATERSTONES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 13

audiobook of the week

***The Once and Future Sex: Going Medieval on Women's Roles in Society* by Eleanor Janega, read by Samara Naeymi, HighBridge, 7hr 33min**

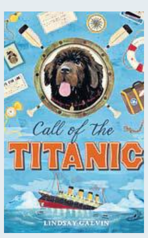
Samara Naeymi's lively narration enhances Eleanor Janega's revealing and provocative account of the lives of women in the Middle Ages. As academics go, Janega is unusual: her Twitter picture shows her in black and white and with a plunging neckline, a gold halo outlining her head, a pint of beer in one hand and a bicycle wheel in the other. It sums up her idiosyncratic approach to her subject nicely.

Her punchy summaries of male philosophers' beliefs (women were "sex-addled and insatiable in their demands" and likely to resort to magic to get their way) are leavened by the theories of Hildegard of Bingen and Christine de Pisan, formidable women who had influence. Then, as now, women juggled work and motherhood. Few trades were closed to them: they were farmers, manuscript illuminators and, as midwives, played a role equivalent to a GP's.

Janega adds colour with court records and builds a picture of the positive and resourceful part that women played in medieval society, not only as adjuncts to their husbands and fathers, but in their own right.
Christina Hardyment

children's book of the week

Lucy Bannerman enjoys a tale of the Titanic's rescuers



***Call of the Titanic* (9+) by Lindsay Galvin, Chicken House, 320pp; £7.99**

Lindsay Galvin ties together different strands of fact and fiction like a perfectly executed sailor's knot in this lesser-told tale of the RMS Carpathia and its mission to rescue survivors of the Titanic.

There's Clara, the fictional stowaway; the captain whose ship was first on the scene and whose quick thinking really did save more than 700 lifeboat passengers; and Rigel, the Newfoundland dog who became a tabloid hero at the time thanks to reports of a drowned sailor's dog braving freezing waters to sniff out survivors amid the ice.

Rigel didn't actually exist (naughty New York Herald), but he does now in this compelling adventure, which combines shaggy dog tales and some exciting derring-do with real historical details, such as the Titanic's menus and its original telegram messages to nearby ships, to tell the story of the disaster from a refreshing, new perspective.


Lindsay Galvin

Clara, a headstrong runaway, emerges from her hiding place below deck to discover she has company. "The fur is soft. The smell is musty and warm. No bared teeth, just ears, drooly chops and whiskers. The bear is not a bear. It is the biggest, shaggiest, blackest monster of a dog I've ever seen."

There's a hint of a sea serpent, inspired by sightings that Captain Rostron would later describe in his memoirs, and some fun, child-friendly detail on Morse code and how there would have been no survivors had it not been for this new technology and a chance hearing of a distress signal by the telegram operator on the RMS Carpathia.

I particularly loved the "eyewitness account" from Sid Daniels, the teenage steward who was the last surviving member of the Titanic crew to leave the ship, in which Galvin imagines, cleverly and sensitively, what he might have told the official inquiry into the disaster. Unlike the iceberg, don't miss it.





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Critic's choice

Maryland

Mon-Wed, ITV1, 9pm

There's something refreshing about any new midweek drama that isn't a crime drama, true-life or otherwise. *Maryland* is instead almost entirely about the relationship between two sisters, the only dead body being that of their sadly departed mother. The bereavement has a profound effect on the women, Becca (Suranne Jones) and Rosaline (Eve Best), who have been living distant lives.

As they reunite to sort out the bureaucracy of Mum's death, they discover she had a secret second life in the Isle of Man. Their old tensions surface, and each has her own personal struggle going on.

None of this will blow your socks off. It's too maudlin for that, the pace at once thoughtful and prone to rushed developments as Becca and Rosaline make sudden decisions. Yet for all that, it's involving for the fine performances from Jones and Best. Jones is more vulnerable than usual; Best is pragmatism incarnate. And the themes of grief, sisterly tension and what you never knew about your parents will chime with many.
James Jackson



Eve Best and Suranne Jones in Maryland

Radio choice

Taking Issue with Shakespeare

Mon-Fri, Radio 4, 1.45pm

If you're interested in hearing what Gordon Brown thinks of Mark Antony's extraordinary oration at Julius Caesar's funeral in Shakespeare's 1599 play, tune in to this new series about what the Bard could teach us today.

Brown, speaking from his home in Fife and keeping his politician's hat firmly on, invokes Donald Trump and populism more than once. The RSC chairwoman Baroness Vadera says similar things and the pair's rather unsurprising observations mean that they are not the most interesting guests on the programme marking 400 years since the publication of the First Folio.

For that you will need to wait until later in the week, for Michael Gove on the "levelling up" agenda and *King Lear*, and Will Self's reflections on toxic masculinity and *Hamlet*.

Even in the opener, though, the subject is interesting enough to provoke insightful observations from the presenter, the Oxford academic Emma Smith. Maybe we should look beyond the problems of human folly and wickedness in the tragedies, she argues, and find answers to modern woes in the comedies: stories that drive towards possibility, resolution and "what we owe to each other".
Ben Dowell

Best of the rest

Annika
Today, BBC1, 9.15pm
Nicola Walker's detective, who likes to break the fourth wall with her little jokes, gets a primetime slot to solve cases around Scotland's waters.

Reel Stories: Pet Shop Boys
Today, BBC2, 9.05pm
"The great thing about pop music is that your limitations create your style," Neil Tennant explains of the pop duo's deadpan stage style in this interview in which they watch old clips of themselves.



Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland
Mon, BBC2, 9pm
A powerful five-part film featuring unfiltered personal accounts from those who lived through the Troubles. Intimate stories are combined with archive footage.

The Clearing
Wed, Disney+
Australian shows are all the rage, but this eight-parter is darker and more intense as the survivor of a dangerous cult finds her old life starting to intrude. Guy Pearce is among the cast.

The Great British Sewing Bee
Wed, BBC1, 9pm
"Classic garments with a twist" — that's the challenge facing 12 more amateur clothes designers under the gimlet eyes of Patrick Grant and Esme Young.

Fubar
Thu, Netflix
Arnold Schwarzenegger, *left*, promised he'd be back, and back he keeps coming — this time on Netflix in an action comedy with a *True Lies*-ish premise: father and daughter CIA operatives discover they have lived their lives unaware that the other was a spy. JJ

The best films

Confess, Fletch (15)
From today, Sky Cinema
Move over, Chevy Chase. Jon Hamm, *below*, takes the role of the wisecracking reporter with his *Mad Men* chum John Slattery as his boozy one-time editor.



Great Expectations (PG)
Today, BBC2, 1pm
Banish memories of Olivia Colman's gun-toting turn as Miss Havisham with the original and best adaptation of Dickens, from 1946, starring John Mills as the grown-up Pip.

The Mercy (12)
Today, BBC1, 12.15am
Colin Firth in the tragic tale of Donald Crowhurst, the amateur sailor who unravelled at sea in 1968-69.

Supernova (15)
Sun, BBC2, 10pm
Firth again as a man dealing with the early-onset dementia of his partner of 20 years, played by Stanley Tucci. A touching road-trip drama. JJ

Podcast choice

Pod Save the UK
A spin-off from the popular US politics podcast *Pod Save America*, this is hosted by the comedian Nish Kumar and the Guardian journalist Coco Khan. The first episode has a professor of politics explaining how Britain might practically become a republic.
James Marriott

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Saturday 20 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Afterglow
BBC4, 9pm/9.45pm

Ester Sand (Nina Ellen Odegard, *right*) seems to be a perfect person leading the perfect life. She works in a hospital, devotedly holding the hands of dying patients; she has three lovely children and a husband, Arild (the *Vikings* star Thorbjorn Harr), who adores her. She's beautiful too, as well as almost impossibly virtuous, and rarely seems to stop smiling. But as she prepares for her 40th birthday party she gets bombshell news: she has cervical cancer. Ester being Ester she doesn't want to spoil the fun of her guests (whose number include a ridiculously handsome vet pal) and tries to put on a brave face. There are moments in this seven-part Norwegian drama by Kjetil Indregard and Atle Knudsen in which the warmth threatens to tip into the saccharine. But it's saved from slushiness by some gently comic touches and a capable ensemble who at least make their well-meaning decency convincing. In some respects the sunny perfection of their lives before Ester's phone call from her oncologist gives this show a slightly American feel (there's a vibe here that feels redolent of the zeitgeisty 1980s show *Thirtysomething*). And there's a moment in the opening episode that could well have been inspired by a notable *EastEnders* plot twist from the Grant Mitchell era. Gripes aside, though, it is an upbeat and often moving tale about an important subject close to many of our hearts. "We can't just stop living because we have cancer," Ester says — a line that could well be the motto of the show. And unless your heart is made of stone they're not sentiments to be sniffed at. Ben Dowell



Pet Shop Boys at the BBC
BBC2, 7.35pm

In many ways this run-down of the duo's BBC appearances is the hors d'oeuvres before *Pet Shop Boys: Reel Stories* (BBC2, 9.05pm), in which Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe share their thoughts on life, their careers and much else with Dermot O'Leary. The electro-pop pioneers may have a certain (cough) reputation among rock music aficionados, but there's no doubting their thoughtfulness, especially when discussing key moments such as their Glastonbury sets, the impact of the Aids epidemic and singing *Go West* in Moscow's Red Square. **BD**

Annika
BBC1, 9.15pm

"My name is Annika," Nicola Walker's Marine Homicide Unit detective DI Annika Strandhed says to camera at the start of this drama. If you think that the decision to break the fourth wall will herald a wildly experimental show, think again. With a single-mother heroine, beautiful scenery and a huge body count of horrifically mutilated victims, this is often as conventional as it gets — which isn't always a bad thing. The drama has already been a success on UKTV, but with a primetime BBC audience and the mesmerising Walker front and centre, bigger things may be coming. **BD**

The Fab Five: The King's Grandchildren
Channel 5, 9.20pm

After the near-saturation coverage of the coronation Channel 5 is hoping to woo the royal mega fan with this talking-head-based clip show focusing on the House of Windsor's younger members. What can Prince George et al teach the King and Queen, we are invited to wonder. And how will the monarchs navigate the dynamics of this very modern family? Well, "every generation changes" is one insight in a programme in which the obvious is stated more than once. Nice pictures, though. **BD**

Later … with Jools Holland
BBC2, 9.50pm

The ivory-tinkling Mr H is back at the Alexandra Palace Theatre in north London with live music and chat. This week he welcomes the Irish singer-songwriters Hozier and Lisa O'Neill, as well as Arlo Parks, the 2021 Mercury prizewinner. Also in the line-up are the San Diego soul trip trio Thee Sacred Souls, and there will be a chat with the photographer Jill Furmanovsky about the retrospective exhibition of her work at Manchester Central Library celebrating 50 years of her work, which features some of the biggest names in music. **BD**

Catch up

Queen Cleopatra
Netflix

With its dramatic reconstructions, this four-part docudrama narrated by Jada Pinkett Smith (wife of Will) turns the story of Cleopatra (played by the British actress Adele James, *right*) into an overblown soap opera — which, to be fair, it probably was. "Cleopatra walked through the sandstorm of history," Pinkett Smith intones, "and left footprints so deep no man could ever erase them." This is the girl power take on Egyptology, with Cleo put on a pedestal as a badass warrior queen, equal parts vixen, diplomat and shrewd military strategist. Netflix has splashed the cash (although surely not as much as the estimated £323 million in today's money lavished on the 1963 screen epic), with elaborate sets, fabulous costumes and an erudite selection of academics providing context. The cast includes the former *EastEnders* actor John Partridge in full panto-villain mode as Julius Caesar. **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 5.10-5.40pm** Legends of Welsh Sport: Neville Southall. A profile of the former Wales goalkeeper (r)
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.00-1.00pm** Elections 2023. Coverage of the local election results
● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 9.55am** Suzie Lee: Home Cook Hero. How to prepare and present the ultimate grilled cheese sandwich (r) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. Matt Tebbutt is joined by Ben Elton **11.30** Mary Berry: Love to Cook. In Carmarthen Bay, Mary and daughter Annabel meet forager Craig Evans **Midday-1.00pm** Football Focus. Alex Scott looks ahead to the weekend's fixtures **5.05pm** Weather Watchers with Barra Best (r) **5.30-6.35pm** Gardeners' World. Monty Don plants tropical gingers and tomatoes (r)
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 4.30-5.10pm** Sportscene Results. A round-up of the afternoon's football news **11.50** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights. Action from the latest fixtures (r) **1.05am FILM The Mercy (2017) 2.40** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.45-6.00am** BBC News
● **STV As ITV1 except: 1.25-4.00pm** Live STV Racing: Live from Newbury **7.20-7.29** STV News **3.00-4.15am** Night Vision
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** The Edit **7.30** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights **8.45** The Harbour. The ferry sets sail for Orkney and Shetland (r) **9.15** Scot Squad. Officers Singh and McKirdy receive a rude awakening (r) **9.45** The Crow Road. Drama, starring Joe McFadden and Bill Paterson (r) **11.40** One More Tune **11.55pm-Midnight** Loop (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **6.10** Jamborî (r) **6.20** Pablo (r) **6.35** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **6.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **7.00** Sali Mali (r) **7.05** Digbi Draig (r) **7.15** Gwdihw (r) **7.30** Sion y Chef (r) **7.45** Deian a Loli (r) **8.00** Siwrne Ni (r) **8.30** Oi! Osgar (r) **9.10** Bernard (r) **9.25** Bwystfil (r) **9.35** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) **10.00** Dau Gi Bach (r) **10.30** Natur a Ni (r) **11.00** Codi Pac (r) **11.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **12.00** Ffermio (r) **12.30pm** Yn y Ffram (r) **1.30** Y Fets (r) **2.30** Colleen Ramsey: Bywyd a Bwyd (r) **3.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **3.30** Hen Dy Newydd (r) **4.30** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **5.00** Ar Werth (r) **5.25** Ar Werth (r) **5.50** Teulu'r Castell (r) **6.45** Pen/Campwyr (r) **7.15** News **7.30** Priodas Pum Mil (r) **8.30** Welsh Whisperer: Ni'n Teithio Nawr! (r) **9.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **9.45** Ralïo+. The final leg of the Rally de Portugal (r) **10.15** Merched yr Awr (r) **11.15-11.50** Curadur (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

Bad Boys for Life (15, 2020)
Channel 4, 9pm

The Miami detectives Mike Lowrey (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence), *below*, are back for a third adventure in a mostly crass franchise that should have died after its previous odious instalment in 2003 (they blew up everything and made gay jokes). And yet, it's fabulous. It's as though the franchise has been intellectually, thematically and spiritually dry cleaned. Yes, Lowrey and Burnett still demolish half of Miami in deafening car chases and blood-spattered shoot-outs on their way to discovering the identity of a Mexican occultist controlling the mob from across the border, but this time you care. There's dramatic jeopardy, real character work and actual affection, and the closing plot twist shows the franchise in a new light. (124min) **Kevin Maher**



The Mercy (12, 2017)
BBC1, 12.15am

The story of Donald Crowhurst, the amateur sailor who died while competing — and cheating — in the 1968-69 Sunday Times Golden Globe Race, is brought to life with promising glimmers by the Oscar-winning actor Colin Firth and James Marsh, the director of *The Theory of Everything*. Before the race Firth's Crowhurst emerges as a slightly pompous, slightly weak, self-pitying dreamer surrounded by adoring children and a doe-eyed wife, Clare (Rachel Weisz). However, once he gets out on the water the film pulls its punches and can't decide whether it pities or despises him, with Firth reduced to playing "crazy sailor" clichés — dressing in seaweed, growing a tiny beard, cutting his hair with a bread knife and talking to a broken radio. (102min) **KM**

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Saturday 20

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. With guest Ben Elton, and chefs Sabrina Ghayour and Max La Manna **11.30** Mary Berry: Love to Cook (r) **12.00** Football Focus. A look ahead to the weekend's fixtures **1.00pm** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Bargain Hunt (r) **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League: Leeds Rhinos v Wigan Warriors (Kick-off **2.30**). All the action from the sixth-round tie at Headingley Stadium **4.30** Final Score **5.10** Garden Rescue. Redesigning an unusually shaped garden in Droitwich Spa (r) **5.40** BBC News **5.50** BBC Regional News; Weather **6.00** Michael McIntyre's The Wheel. The comedian hosts the game show, joined by Anton Du Beke, Josie Gibson, Iain Stirling, Kadeena Cox, Nigel Ng, Tony Blackburn and Emma Barnett (r)



Nicola Walker in Annika (9.15pm)

7.00 Blankety Blank Panellists include Sally Lindsay, Andi Oliver, Jimmy Carr and Sophie Ellis-Bextor (6/10) (r)

7.35 Pointless Celebrities Phil Tufnell, Mark Butcher, Cece Lightfoot, Pooja Shah, Chris McCausland, Sarah Keyworth, Ritchie Neville and Scott Robinson compete in the general knowledge quiz

8.25 Casualty Jodie's drink is spiked during a night out, but she is able to call Rida for help. When she makes it to the emergency department, a furious Max assumes she is drunk

9.15 Annika New series. On her first day in a new job, DI Annika Strandhed is faced with the murder of a man found in the river with a harpoon in his head. Crime drama starring Nicola Walker. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)

10.05 BBC News; Weather

10.25 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Manchester United, Nottingham Forest v Arsenal and Liverpool v Aston Villa, as valuable points were up for grabs at both ends of the table

11.45 MOTD Top 10: Dark Arts Players most adept at using sly tactics

12.15am FILM **The Mercy (12, 2017)** The story of amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst and his solo attempt to circumnavigate the globe in 1968. Drama starring Colin Firth and Rachel Weisz. **See Film Choice 1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.55** BBC News

BBC2

6.30am Hey Duggee (r) **6.35** Hey Duggee (r) **6.45** Supertato (r) **6.55** Shaun the Sheep (r) **7.00** Dennis & Gnasher Unleashed! (r) **7.15** Boy Girl Dog Cat Mouse Cheese (r) **7.25** The Deep (r) **7.50** Odd Squad (r) **8.00** Game on Grandparents (r) **8.25** One Zoo Three (r) **8.45** Newsround (r) **8.55** Blue Peter (r) **9.25** Deadly Predators (r) **9.55** FILM **Newsies: The Broadway Musical (PG, 2017)** A performance of the musical starring Jeremy Jordan **12.00** Family Cooking Showdown (r) **1.00pm** FILM **Great Expectations (PG, 1946)** Drama with John Mills and Jean Simmons (b/w) **2.55** FILM **The Remains of the Day (U, 1993)** Period drama starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson **5.05** Flog It! (r) **6.00** Dad's Army (b/w) (r) **6.35** Hidden Treasures of the National Trust (r)



Pet Shop Boys at the BBC (7.35pm)

7.35 Pet Shop Boys at the BBC A selection of Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe's many appearances on the BBC, from the early days of just two men and a synth right up to the fun and flamboyance of their modern live shows. The programme also features collaborations with Liza Minnelli, Dusty Springfield and David Bowie. **See Viewing Guide**

9.05 Reel Stories: Pet Shop Boys Dermot O'Leary chats to Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe about pivotal moments from their career. **See Viewing Guide**

9.50 Later... with Jools Holland New series. Jools returns to Alexandra Palace Theatre, with the opening edition featuring Hozier, Arlo Parks, Lisa O'Neil, Thee Sacred Souls and Venbee. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)

10.35 Pet Shop Boys: Live in Hyde Park The duo's headline set at the Radio 2 festival in 2019, featuring performances of *Always On My Mind*, *It's a Sin*, *Suburbia*, *Left to My Own Devices* and *West End Girls* (r)

12.05am Top of the Pops: The Story of 1982 (r) **1.05-3.20** FILM **By the Grace of God (15, 2018)** Three men band together to dismantle the code of silence protecting a priest who abused them decades ago. Fact-based drama with Melvil Poupaud

ITV1

6.00am CITV **8.25** ITV News **8.30** Oti Mabuse's Breakfast Show. With Kiell Smith-Bynoe and Giovanna Fletcher **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. With *Loose Women* star Charlene White **11.35** John and Lisa's Weekend Kitchen **12.35pm** James Martin's French Adventure (r) **1.10** ITV News; Weather **1.25** Live ITV Racing: From Newbury. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of a card headlined by the Lockinge Stakes from Newbury, plus three races from Newmarket **4.00** Live Champions Cup Rugby: Leinster v La Rochelle (Kick-off **4.45**). Jill Douglas presents all the action from the final at Aviva Stadium in Dublin. These sides also met in last year's showpiece match, with La Rochelle claiming a narrow 24-21 victory in Marseille



Leinster's Josh Van Der Flier (4pm)

7.15 ITV News

7.20 Regional News; Weather

7.30 In for a Penny Stephen Mulhern sets challenges to members of the public in Brighton

8.00 Britain's Got Talent More performers take to the stage in London and Manchester to try to impress the judges and secure their place in the live-semi-finals. Ant and Dec host both on stage and from the wings as they get ready to cheer and console the acts brave enough to perform in front of thousands

9.20 The 1% Club Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants in every show having a chance of winning up to £100,000 (5/8)

10.15 ITV News

10.30 FILM **Fast & Furious (12, 2009)** News of a friend's murder brings international fugitive Dominic Toretto back to his home city of Los Angeles in search of revenge. It is not long before his pursuit leads him to cross paths with FBI agent Brian O'Conner, and despite their hostile feelings toward each other, the pair work together to bring down those responsible. Thriller sequel with Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster

12.35am English Football League Highlights. The latest fixtures (r) **1.35** Teleshopping **3.00** Unwind with ITV **4.15** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh. With Julie Tatchell (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.10am Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **6.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **7.25** The King of Queens (r) **7.50** The King of Queens (r) **8.15** The King of Queens (r) **8.40** The King of Queens (r) **9.10** Frasier (r) **9.40** Frasier (r) **10.10** Frasier (r) **10.40** The Simpsons (r) **11.10** The Simpsons (r) **11.40** The Simpsons (r) **12.10pm** The Simpsons (r) **12.40** FILM **The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG, 2008)** Fantasy adventure starring Freddie Highmore **2.25** Four in a Bed (r) **2.55** Four in a Bed (r) **3.25** Four in a Bed (r) **3.55** Four in a Bed (r) **4.30** Four in a Bed (r) **5.00** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) **5.30** Channel 4 News **6.00** The Lancaster Bomber at 80 with David Jason. The origins and legacy of the iconic Second World War aircraft (r)



The Lancaster Bomber (6.30pm)

7.00 Titanic: Building the World's Largest Ship The untold story of the doomed steamship's construction, revealing how 15,000 men toiled day and night in life-threatening conditions to create a state-of-the-art floating city (r)

8.00 Grace Kelly: Lost Tapes of a Princess Documentary following the life of the movie star turned princess, featuring previously unseen home movie footage depicting her home life and relationship with her children (r)

9.00 FILM **Bad Boys for Life (15, 2020)** Isabel Aretas, the widow of crime lord Benito, escapes from a Mexican prison with the help of her son, Armando. She sends him to Miami to recover the stash of money his father had hidden, as well as assassinating those responsible for his dad's arrest and eventual death in prison. She demands that Armando kill Miami detective Mike Lowrey last. Action sequel starring Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Paola Nunez and Vanessa Hudgens. **See Film Choice**

11.25 FILM **American Assassin (18, 2017)** The survivor of a terrorist attack becomes a master of unarmed combat before the US government consider using him for black ops. Action thriller starring Dylan O'Brien

1.25am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **2.20** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **3.10** Jamie's Comfort Food (r) **3.20** Hollyoaks Omnibus (r) (SL) **5.30** Moneybags. Quiz show (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **10.00** The Smurfs **10.15** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **10.25** Entertainment News on 5 **10.30** Cash in the Attic (r) **11.00** Police Interceptors (r) **12.00** FILM **Mirror Mirror (PG, 2012)** An exiled princess joins forces with a band of dwarfs to wrest back her father's kingdom from her wicked stepmother. Fantasy starring Julia Roberts and Lily Collins **2.10pm** FILM **The 'Burbs (PG, 1989)** The arrival of secretive neighbours sparks curiosity in a group of friends, who go to bizarre lengths to learn the truth. Black comedy with Tom Hanks **4.15** FILM **The Terminal (12, 2004)** An Eastern European en route to America is stranded after a coup in his homeland, but makes a life for himself in JFK Airport. Comedy with Tom Hanks **6.50** 5 News Weekend



The King's Grandchildren (9.20pm)

6.55 The Vicar of Dibley: 30 Years of Laughs A celebration of Richard Curtis's sitcom, featuring clips along with insight from cast, crew and fans. The programme examines how the fictional village of Dibley was never the same once Dawn French's comedy creation Geraldine Granger arrived as the new vicar (r)

8.20 The Royal Kitchen: Upstairs, Downstairs Light-hearted glimpse into the world of the British royal family, looking at how the monarchy's culinary traditions have changed through the ages (1/5) (r)

9.20 The Fab Five: The King's Grandchildren Documentary examining the lives of the royal grandchildren, looking at how the new King and Queen might navigate the complex dynamics of this very modern family. **See Viewing Guide**

10.45 When TV Stars Go Horribly Wrong Jennifer Ellison narrates a compilation of moments that soap stars would rather forget, with clips featuring Marc Bannerman, Katie Jarvis, Jack P Shepherd and Martine McCutcheon. Bruce Jones opens-up about how he struggled to find work after being typecast as Les Battersby in *Coronation Street* (r)

1.30am Teleshopping **3.30** The Yorkshire Vet. A labrador needs surgery after eating a sock (r) **4.30** Britain's Biggest Mosque (r) (SL) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.45** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.50** Pip and Posy (r) (SL)

Saturday 20 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat



Robin Williams
Come Inside My Mind is an intimate portrait of the actor and comedian
Sky Documentaries, 9pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am Cristo The latest headlines
7.00 David Bull The presenter brings viewers up to speed on all of the biggest stories of the day.
10.00 Peter Cardwell The latest news from Parliament, featuring interviews with political heavyweights
1.00pm Trisha Goddard The broadcaster looks through the week's leading stories
4.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the news of the day, champions free speech
7.00 Saturday Night Talkaway with Andre Walker Taking a look through the week's top stories
9.00 That Was The Woke That Was Andre Walker quizzes our panel on some of the stories of the week
10.00-1.00am James Whale The presenter reacts to the big stories of the day

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm EastEnders
7.30 EastEnders
8.00 Top Gear Chris Harris puts Honda's latest NSX through its paces (6/6)
9.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Jonny's efforts to learn to drive come to an abrupt halt when Louise holds his car hostage (4/14)
9.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Jonny offers to buy alcohol for some teenagers (5/14)
9.55 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Janet and Jonny prepare for their hen and stag parties (6/14)
10.25 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Janet and Jonny miss their own wedding (7/14)
10.55 I Kissed a Boy Dannii Minogue presents a dating show for gay men (1/8)
11.40-12.35am I Kissed a Boy (2/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Himalaya with Michael Palin The traveller moves on to Tibet, where he discovers an increasing Chinese influence (4/6)
8.00 Himalaya with Michael Palin The adventurer journeys along the Yangtze river into China (5/6)
9.00 Afterglow New series. A woman receives a call that turns her life upside down. Drama starring Nina Ellen Odegaard. In Norwegian. **See Viewing Guide** (1/7)
9.45 Afterglow Charlotte makes an unsettling discovery. In Norwegian. **See Viewing Guide** (2/7)
10.30 The Mary Rose: A Timewatch Guide Dan Snow explores the excavation and raising of the ship (1/3)
11.30-12.30am Victoria Wood: The Secret List Part one of two. Favourite sketches chosen by the comedy actress (1/2)

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz are off to Huddersfield to rescue a 1992 VW Corrado (2/10)
8.00 24 Hours in A&E: Heart Special Memorable staff and patient stories since 2011. A 79-year-old woman is rushed in with signs of a stroke and a part-time wrestler comes in after injuring his knee in the ring
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A two-year-old is brought in by her mum and dad, who suspect that she has swallowed a coin (3/6)
10.00 24 Hours in A&E A 25-year-old man arrives by helicopter after being involved in a motorcycle accident in which a van ran over his chest
11.05-12.10am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Sean Lock and Roisin Conaty compete against Jon Richardson and Nish Kumar (2/5)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm True Blood Bill and Eric try to regain the trust of their human neighbours (1/12) (R)
7.50 Game of Thrones Margaery and her grandmother encourage Sansa to speak freely about Joffrey, Jaime finds a way to pass the time, and Arya encounters outlaw group the Brotherhood Without Banners (2/10) (R)
9.00 Game of Thrones Tyrion assumes new responsibilities, Jon is taken to the imposing Fist Of The First Men, Jaime strikes a deal with his captors and Daenerys meets with the slavers (3/10) (R)
10.05 Game of Thrones Arya is brought before the commander of the Brotherhood Without Banners (4/10) (R)
11.10-12.15am Game of Thrones Tyrion learns the true cost of a wedding (5/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind Natasha Gregson Wagner presents a unique insight into her mother's life and movie career. Featuring previously unseen archive materials and interviews with Robert Redford, Mia Farrow, Robert Wagner and Elliott Gould (R)
9.00 FILM Robin Williams: Come Inside My Mind (12, 2018) An intimate portrait of the life and work of the beloved comedian and actor Robin Williams, featuring previously unseen footage and interviews with those closest to him
11.20-1.10am Look Away Documentary hearing from women groomed in their early teenage years by rock stars, as well as exploring the lengths the music industry went to in order to protect its own (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

6.45pm FILM Marley & Me (PG, 2008) Comedy drama starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston
9.00 FILM Bad Neighbours (15, 2014) A couple enter into a vicious game of one-upmanship with the raucous student household living next door. Comedy starring Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne
10.55 Family Guy Stewie falls in love with his new babysitter
11.25 Family Guy Peter and Lois go on a second honeymoon
11.55-12.25am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

5.10pm Midsomer Murders A land dispute leads to murder
7.05 Midsomer Murders Joyce Barnaby is involved in a car accident, and when a body is found in a cemetery she thinks she is to blame. Guest starring Danny Webb
9.00 Midsomer Murders A music prodigy suffers a panic attack and runs to a nearby river, where she witnesses a woman drowning
11.00-1.05am Agatha Christie's Poirot The death of a former nanny is connected to a troubled heiress

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm FILM Smokey and the Bandit II (PG, 1980) Comedy with Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason
9.00 English Football League Highlights Action from the League Two play-off semi-final second-leg matches
10.15-12.55am FILM Space Cowboys (PG, 2000) An ageing former test pilot is called on to stop a malfunctioning Soviet satellite from crashing to Earth. Adventure directed by and starring Clint Eastwood, with Tommy Lee Jones

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm The Big Bang Theory
7.30 The Big Bang Theory Bernadette encourages Howard and Raj to track down the owner of a drone they find in the garden
8.00 The Great British Bake Off: The Winners The first of two specials paying tribute to the winners from past shows
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox A Pride anniversary episode (4/6)
10.00 Gogglebox Opinions on programmes from November 2021
11.05-12.10am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

6.40pm Red Dwarf
7.20 Red Dwarf
8.00 Not Going Out Christmas Special The gang spend Christmas in a spooky country house
9.00 Not Going Out
10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing The duo go fishing for the predatory perch
10.40 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Fishing for pike
11.20 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing On the River Ure
12.00-12.40am Gavin & Stacey

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.00pm The Brokenwood Mysteries Shepherd is called upon to investigate when a coach's body is found tied to a goal post
8.00 Father Brown The sleuth tries to solve a case involving a musical director. Starring Mark Williams
9.00 In the Dark DI Helen Weeks finds herself in more danger as she tracks down the gang responsible for the shooting
10.20-12.30am Rebus A murder and a spate of racist attacks appear to be linked. Starring John Hannah

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Great American Railroad Journeys The presenter Michael Portillo travels from Springhill Junction to Quebec City (7/10)
8.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Michael Portillo explores the Province of Quebec (8/10)
9.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Across Manitoba (9/10)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave
10.40 One Foot in the Grave
11.20 One Foot in the Grave
12.00-1.00am Bangers and Cash An Austin A30 and a Morris 8E

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.15pm Israel: A Twice Promised Land Documentary (1/2)
7.20 Israel: A Twice Promised Land The second of a two part documentary on Israel after the Second World War
8.35 A War on Trial (1/2)
9.40 A War on Trial The story and impact of the Yugoslav Wars and the Siege of Sarajevo (2/2)
10.50 The True Story of King Tut's Treasure Reconstructing the tomb
12.00-1.45am Saving Egypt's Temples Saving heritage

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Mick Fleetwood and Friends Celebrate the Music of Peter Green A 2022 concert at the London Palladium honouring the early years of Fleetwood Mac and its founder Peter Green
9.55 Fleetwood Mac: Live in Boston A 2004 concert by the band as part of the band's Say You Will tour (1/2)
11.00-12.15am Fleetwood Mac: Live in Boston The band perform more of their greatest hits including *Dreams* (2/2)

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm UFOs Declassified Unsolved sightings of dark, triangular flying objects (3/6)
8.00 UFOs Declassified An investigation into the Roswell incident in 1947 (4/6)
9.00 History's Greatest Myths The influence that popular culture and entertainment have on daily life
10.00 History's Greatest Mysteries The only unsolved case of air piracy in commercial aviation history dating back to 1971 (2/4)
12.00-12.30am Storage Wars

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled Fans' favourite moments from the movie franchise
8.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries Freddie and Rob enjoy the sights and sounds of Scotland (4/6)
9.00 A League of Their Own: European Road Trip (5/6)
10.00 Last King of the Cross Fact-based Australian crime drama starring Lincoln Younes (1/10)
10.55 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With Shaun Ryder and Bez (7/7)
11.40-12.35am Bel-Air (3/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Airport Security: Rome A suitcase is discovered with a hidden compartment (8/8)
8.00 Airport Security: Rome A DJ is hiding drugs in shower gel (6/8)
9.00 Airport Security: Rome Italian Police stop a man trying to smuggle heroin and search a passenger arriving from London
10.00 Airport Security: Rome A father and son have fake passports
11.00 Airport Security: Rome (3/8)
12.00-1.00am Airport Security: Rome Police seize cocaine (2/8)

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

6.30pm Wheeler Dealers
7.30 Deadliest Catch
8.30 Arctic Ice Railroad The Polar Bear Express is often the only way to reach the town of Moosonee
9.30 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
10.30 Viagra: The Little Blue Pill That Changed The World
11.30-1.00am Estonia

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm The Office (US)
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm Larry sees Loretta in a new light (10/10)
9.40 Curb Your Enthusiasm (1/10)
10.15 Amy Schumer: Live at the Apollo Stand-up comedy focusing on food, sex, and getting in shape
11.30-12.30am The Reluctant Landlord (1&2/6)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

6.55pm Friends American sitcom
7.25 FILM Little Nicky (12, 2000) Comedy starring Adam Sandler
9.00 FILM Get Him to the Greek (15, 2010) Comedy starring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill
11.00-12.40am FILM Jackass 3.5 (18, 2011) Comedy with Johnny Knoxville and Bam Margera

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

6.40pm Only Fools and Horses
8.20 dinnerladies
9.00 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.20 Chewing Gum Tracey is keen to improve her future
10.55 Chewing Gum
11.30-12.10am Absolutely Fabulous Saffy goes into labour

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm My Family Susan is rescued by a handsome stranger
7.40 My Family
8.20 My Family
9.00 Gavin & Stacey
9.40 Gavin & Stacey
10.20 Gavin & Stacey
11.00-12.05am Stacey Dooley: Locked Up With the Lifers

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

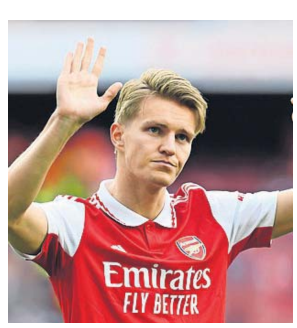
7.00pm Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators (4/9)
8.00 Inspector George Gently An aristocratic family is implicated in the death of a young woman (2/4)
10.00 Miss Scarlet and the Duke Eliza receives a bomb (6/6)
11.00 My Life Is Murder (3/10)
12.00-1.00am Father Brown (2/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

12.00 Live EFL: Stockport County v Salford City (Kick-off **12.30**)
2.45pm Live EFL: Carlisle United v Bradford City (Kick-off **3.00**)
5.00 Live SNF: Nottingham Forest v Arsenal (Kick-off **5.30**)
8.00 Live PGA Championship Golf Coverage of day three of the second Major of the year
12.00 Live Ladies European Tour Golf Coverage of an event
1.00-6.00am Live Fight Night International Devin Haney v Vasiliy Lomachenko

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

5.00pm Live SNF: Nottingham Forest v Arsenal (Kick-off **5.30**). Coverage of the Premier League match from The City Ground
8.30 Game of the Day A full 90-minute rerun of one of the Saturday afternoon fixtures in the Premier League
10.30 PL Highlights Action from Fulham v Crystal Palace
11.00 PL Highlights
11.30-12.00m't PL Highlights Action from Bournemouth v Manchester United



Will Martin Odegaard's Arsenal hand the league title to Man City today? (Sky Main Event, 5pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

10.50am Live Indian Premier League: Delhi Capitals v Chennai Super Kings The T20 match at Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi
2.00-5.45pm Live T20 Blast Cricket: Derbyshire Falcons v Lancashire Lightning
6.15 Live T20 Blast Cricket: Birmingham Bears v Yorkshire Vikings The North Group match from Edgbaston, Birmingham
10.00 IPL Action from Delhi Capitals v Chennai Super Kings
11.00-12.00m't IPL

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

11.30-3.00pm Live Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur v Brentford (Kick-off **12.30**)
5.15-7.00 Live Serie A: Atalanta v Hellas Verona
7.30 Live Serie A: AC Milan v Sampdoria (Kick-off **7.45**)
9.45 What I Wore
10.00 Live UFC Preliminary bouts
12.00-3.30am Live UFC Raquel Pennington v Irene Aldana
3.45-5.15am Live V8 Supercars Championship Coverage of race 11 from the latest round of the season

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.30am Live AFL: Fremantle Dockers v Geelong Cats (Bounce-up **7.35**)
10.30-1.30pm Live AFL: Essendon Bombers v Richmond Tigers (Bounce-up **10.40**)
4.00-7.15 Live Champions Cup: Leinster v La Rochelle (Kick-off **4.45**)
7.45-10.00 Live Ligue 1: Lille v Marseille (Kick-off **8.00**)
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: Atlanta Braves v Seattle Mariners (Start-time **12.15**)

Saturday 20

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

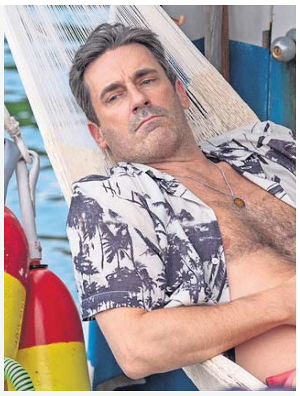
11.00am Barnyard (PG, 2006) Animated comedy with the voice of Kevin James **12.45pm Tooth Fairy (PG, 2010)** Comedy with Dwayne Johnson and Ashley Judd **3.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (12, 2014)** Fantasy adventure starring Megan Fox **5.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows (12, 2016)** Action adventure sequel starring Megan Fox **7.10 Daddy's Home (12, 2015)** Comedy starring Will Ferrell **9.00 Upgrade (15, 2018)** Sci-fi thriller with Logan Marshall-Green and Betty Gabriel **11.00-1.45am Dune (PG, 1984)** Sci-fi fantasy starring Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis and Patrick Stewart

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Blackout (PG, 1950) Crime drama starring Maxwell Reed and Dinah Sheridan **7.30 Night Ride (U, 1937)** Drama starring Julian Vedey **9.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood** Adventure series **9.30 The Adventures of Sir Lancelot** Arthurian adventure **10.00 The Battle of Billy's Pond (PG, 1976)** Family drama starring Ben Buckton **11.05 The Buccaneers 11.35 The Phantom Empire 12.00 The Phantom Planet (PG, 1961)** Sci-fi adventure starring Dean Fredericks **1.40pm The Outer Limits 2.40 The Magnet (U, 1950)** Ealing comedy with Stephen Murray and Kay Walsh **4.15 The Night Caller (15, 1965)** Sci-fi thriller with John Saxon and Maurice Denham **5.55 Look at Life 6.10 The 39 Steps (U, 1959)** Spy thriller starring Kenneth More and Barry Jones **8.00 Maigret 9.00 The Four Just Men 9.30 Tomorrow (PG, 1972)** Drama starring Robert Duvall **11.35-1.25am The New Kids (15, 1985)** Thriller starring Lori Loughlin and James Spader

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am GREAT! Movie News 9.10 Garage Sale Mystery: All That Glitters (PG, 2014) Mystery starring Lori Loughlin **11.00 My Girl (PG, 1991)** Drama starring Anna Chlumsky and Dan Aykroyd **1.10pm My Girl 2 (PG, 1994)** Comedy drama with Dan Aykroyd and Jamie Lee Curtis **3.15 What's Eating Gilbert Grape (12, 1993)** Drama starring Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio **5.40 The Horse Whisperer (PG, 1998)** Drama starring Robert Redford, Kristin Scott Thomas and Sam Neill



John Hamm stars in Confess, Fletch (Sky Premiere, 6.10pm)

9.00 The American (15, 2010) Thriller starring George Clooney and Violante Placido **11.10-1.30am The Operative (15, 2019)** Thriller with Diane Kruger and Martin Freeman

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Off Set 6.15 Sierra Passage (PG, 1950) Western starring Wayne Morris and Lola Albright **7.55 Beau Brummell (U, 1954)** Historical drama with Stewart Granger and Elizabeth Taylor **10.10 Rocky Mountain (U, 1950)** Western starring Errol Flynn and Patrice Wymore **11.55 How the West Was Won (PG, 1962)** Western starring James Stewart, John Wayne and Gregory Peck **3.00pm The Last Challenge (PG, 1967)** Western starring Glenn Ford and Chad Everett **4.55 Guns for San Sebastian (PG, 1968)** Western starring Anthony Quinn, Anjanette Comer and Charles Bronson **7.10 How to Steal the World (PG, 1968)** Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum **9.00 US Marshals (15, 1998)** Thriller starring Tommy Lee Jones and Wesley Snipes **11.45-1.50am Righteous Kill (15, 2008)** Thriller starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.30pm Vengeance (15, 2022) Mystery drama starring BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **2.30 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong **4.20 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **6.10 Confess, Fletch (15, 2022)** Premiere. Freelance journalist Fletch becomes prime suspect in a murder case as he tries to rescue an abducted father. Comedy thriller starring Jon Hamm **8.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **10.00-12.00am Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Andi Matichak

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Hugo Rifkind **1.00pm** Alexis Conran **4.00** Ayesha Hazarika **7.00** My Cultural Week with Mariella Frostrup **8.00** Stories of Our Times. The daily podcast **8.30** Best of Matt Chorley **9.00** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Radio 2 in Concert (r) **6.00** Sounds of the 60s with Tony Blackburn **8.00** Dermot O'Leary **10.00** Claudia Winkleman **1.00pm** Pick of the Pops **3.00** Rylan on Saturday **6.00** Liza Tarbuck **8.00** Sounds of the 80s with Gary Davies **10.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton **12.00** The Birth of Sparks: From Beach Boys to Blighty (r) **1.00am** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **2.00** Radio 2 Piano Room **3.00** Let It Grow with Liza Tarbuck **4.00** Radio 2 in Concert (r)

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

7.00am Breakfast 9.00 Record Review 11.45 Music Matters Poet Laureate Simon Armitage talks about the art of lyric writing **12.30pm This Classical Life** Jess Gillam chats to the pianist and composer Missy Mazzoli **1.00 Inside Music** The violinist Tessa Lark chooses a playlist that includes piano music by Gyorgy Ligeti and powerful melodies by Dvorak (r) **3.00 Sound of Cinema** Matthew Sweet focuses on music from South Korean films **4.00 Music Planet** A session by bagpipe player Brighde Chaimbeul and there are new releases from Portugal, Bosnia, Zimbabwe, Iran and Mali **5.00 J to Z** Jumoké Fashola presents a special edition for Mental Health Awareness Month, featuring uplifting melodies and soothing sounds. **6.30 Opera on 3** Tom Service presents the UK premiere of Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, starring Sandrine Piau, Jenny Carlstedt and Christopher Purves **8.25 Radio 3 in Concert** The BBC Singers give the UK premiere of Kaija Saariaho's *Reconnaissance*, and a chance to hear Saariaho's string quartet Terra memoria **10.00 New Music Show** Sara Pinheiro's live responses to the sound of a radio **12.00 Freeness** Music with the human voice at its centre **1.00am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

Lord Dracula
Radio 4 Extra, 11am
A bit of retro fun from the decade that knew how to do horror, this 1974 drama directed by Brian Hayles and featuring natty sound effects by the BBC Radiophonic Workshop stars Kenneth Haigh, *right*, as "Vlad Dracula" and Nigel Stock as Father Benedek. And not that it needs an excuse, it is looking forward to World Dracula Day (May 26 in case you didn't know), which marks the publication date of Bram



Stoker's novel in 1897. The drama starts in 1476 at the mighty castle at Targoviste, where Father Benedek chronicles the horrific, bloody reign of a figure who needs no introduction. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Please Protect Abraham An investigation is launched (r) **6.00 News and Papers 6.07 Ramblings** (r) **6.30 Farming Today This Week** Agriculture updates **7.00 Today 8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 Saturday Live 10.00 Your Place or Mine 10.30 The Kitchen Cabinet 11.00 The Week in Westminster** Updates **11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Money Box 12.30 The News Quiz** (r) **1.00 News 1.10 Any Questions?** (r) **2.00 Any Answers?** Phone-in **2.45 The Museums That Make Us** Exploring the Tower Museum in Londonderry (r) **3.00 Drama: The Ballad of Syd & Morgan** Drama based on Haydn Middleton's novel imagining an encounter between novelist EM Forster and Syd Barrett of Pink Floyd **4.00 Weekend Woman's Hour 5.00 Saturday PM** News **5.30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson** Interviews **5.54 Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.15 Loose Ends** With Stacey Dooley and Gabrielle Brooks **7.00 Profile 7.15 This Cultural Life** Nick Cave reveals his formative influences and experiences **8.00 Archive on 4: The Socrates of San Francisco** The story of Howard Luck Gossage **9.00 GF Newman's The Corrupted** (10/10) (r) **9.45 Short Works** (r) **10.00 News 10.15 Bringing Up Britain** (r) **11.00 Round Britain Quiz** (r) **11.30 Uncanny** (7/12) **12.00 Midnight News 12.15am 21st-Century Relaxation Tape** (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am 5 Live Boxing **6.00** Saturday Breakfast **9.00** Patrick Kielty **11.00** Fighting Talk **12.00** 5 Live Sport. Football build-up **3.00pm** 5 Live Sport. Live Premier League coverage **5.00** Sports Report **5.30** 5 Live Sport: Nottingham Forest v Arsenal (Kick-off 5.30) **7.30** 6-0-6 **9.00** Stephen Nolan **10.00** 5 Live Boxing **12.00** Newscast **1.00am** Laura McGhie

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am GameDay Breakfast **9.00** GameDay Warm Up **11.00** GameDay Exclusive: Tottenham Hotspur v Brentford (Kick-off 12.30) **2.30pm** GameDay Live **5.30** The GameDay Phone-In **7.30** The Mark Goldbridge Show **9.00** Fight Night **12.00** A talkSPORT Special **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am Cristo **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Peter Cardwell **1.00pm** Trisha Goddard **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **7.00** Saturday Night Talkaway **9.00** That Was The Woke That Was **10.00** James Whale. Opinions **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

7.30am The Wall Omnibus **8.45** The Fosdyke Saga **9.00** Benny Hill Time. A selection of sketches **9.30** Whack-O! **10.00** Writing: The Midlands **11.00** Lord Dracula. A monk chronicles the reign of the tyrant behind the legend of Count Dracula. **See Choice 12.30pm** The Wall Omnibus **1.45** The Fosdyke Saga **2.00** Benny Hill Time **2.30** Whack-O! **3.00** Writing: The Midlands **4.00** Dangerous Visions: Body Tourists **4.45** Someone Like You **5.00** Lord Dracula **6.30** The Wall **7.45** The Fosdyke Saga **8.00** Benny Hill Time **8.30** Whack-O! **9.00** Writing: The Midlands **10.00** Comedy Club: Nick Mohammed in Bits **10.30** Mark Watson Makes the World Substantially Better **10.55** Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Vent **11.30** Life: An Idiot's Guide **12.00** To See the Sun **12.30am** The Golden Apples of the Sun

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** BBC OS Conversations **9.30** Pick of the World **9.50** Over to You **10.00** News **10.06** Sports Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Unspun World with John Simpson **12.00** News **12.06pm** The Documentary: Iraq: Generation Invasion **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** Sportsworld **6.00** The Newsroom **6.30** Dear Daughter **6.50** Sporting Witness **7.00** News **7.06** The Inquiry **7.30** Outlook **8.00** News **8.06** The Arts Hour **9.00** Newshour **10.06** Music Life. DJ Deena Abdelwahed heads up this week's music chat **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Tech Tent **12.00** News **12.06am** BBC OS Conversations **12.30** Dear Daughter **12.50** Sporting Witness **1.00** News **1.06** The Science Hour **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Healthcheck **3.00** News **3.06** The Documentary: Iraq: Generation Invasion **4.00** News **4.06** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** Trending **4.50** Witness

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Amy Lamé **8.00** Radcliffe and Maconie **10.00** The Huey Show **1.00pm** Jamz Supernova on 6 **3.00** Gilles Peterson **6.00** The Craig Charles Funk and Soul Show **9.00** The Blessed Madonna **12.00** Lose Yourself With **2.00am** Late in the Day **4.00** The Morning After Mix

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Amy Voce **9.30** The Graham Norton **12.30pm** Stu Elmore **4.00** Tim Cocker **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

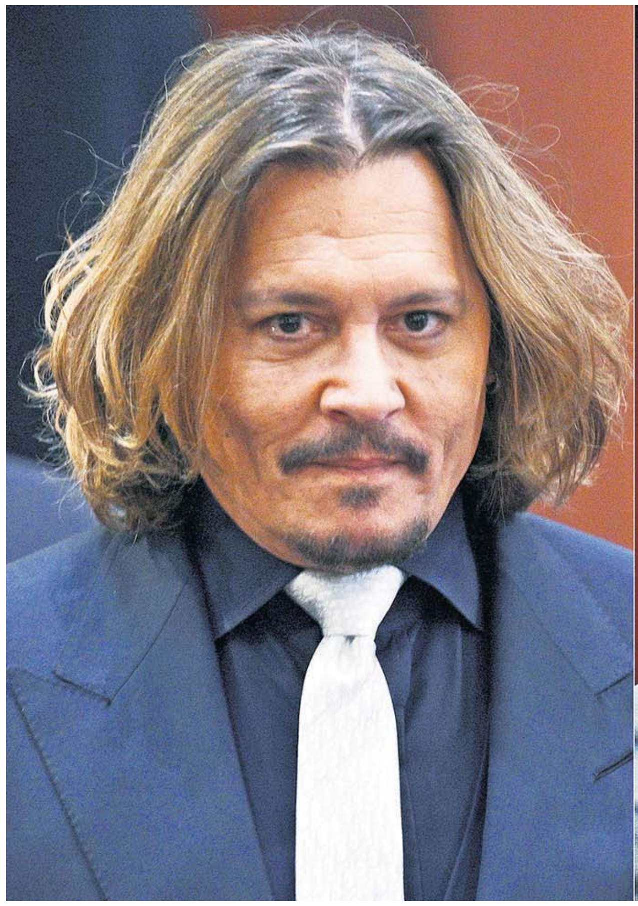
Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Alan Titchmarsh **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00pm** Alexander Armstrong **4.00** Moira Stuart's Hall of Fame Concert **7.00** Saturday Night at the Movies **9.00** David Mellor's Melodies **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

Sunday 21 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Depp v Heard
Channel 4, 9pm

Johnny Depp v Amber Heard — a tawdry tale of violence, jealousy, flying bottles, barrels of booze, mountains of drugs and soiled bed sheets, told via grim testimony in trials that played out in courtrooms in the UK and America under the glare of the world's media. Round one went to Heard, when Depp lost his libel claim against the British newspaper The Sun for its allegations that he had beaten his ex-wife. But it was soon advantage Depp, with a defamation trial heard in Fairfax, Virginia, in April 2022 that went in his favour. That second trial — which was broadcast live in full in the US — is the focus of this three-part documentary. Depp and Heard, *right*, testified two weeks apart, so the director Emma Cooper uses footage from the trial edited together "for clarity", to allow their accounts to be shown side by side for the first time. There are no talking heads providing context; instead the series is pieced together from the testimony of Depp and Heard, along with some of the media coverage. In the first episode they testify about meeting on the set of the 2011 film *The Rum Diary* ("I fell head over heels in love with this man," Heard says), before we are reminded of some of the most dramatic moments of the trial — the infamous "Amber Turd" incident and Depp's "mega pint", which quickly became a popular online meme. The series continues over the next two nights and as the allegations against Depp get worse, so does the hostile reaction to Heard from "Deppheads" on social media. If there is a question being asked it is this: can a jury ever be truly fair in the age of social media? Joe Clay





Ten Pound Poms
BBC1, 9pm

The trials and tribulations of the Brits down under continue, with Terry (Warren Brown) guilt ridden after the incident with Dean (David Field). He decides to keep what happened from his wife, Annie (Faye Marsay), and returns to the scene of the crime. Annie has a secret of her own as she starts work at the department store. Meanwhile, Kate (Michelle Keegan) confides in Robbie from the Port Office that she has come to Australia in search of her son, and Bill cooks up a nefarious scheme in the pursuit of his Australian dream. There's too much going on, but the central storylines are intriguing. **JC**

Juan Carlos: Downfall of a King
Sky Documentaries/Now, 9pm/10pm

For decades King Juan Carlos I was held in high esteem in Spain, having taken the throne in 1975 after General Franco died. He was acclaimed for facing down a coup in 1981 and built a reputation as a modern and progressive monarch. However, he abdicated in 2014 after scandals including affairs, alleged use of credit cards linked to foreign bank accounts and a corruption investigation. This four-part documentary explores his fall from grace, from the perspective of friends, critics, palace insiders and former intelligence officials. **JC**

Ithaka: The Fight to Free Assange
ITV1, 10.20pm

For the past four years Julian Assange has been in Belmarsh Prison awaiting extradition to the US, where he faces a maximum 175-year sentence for charges of espionage. This documentary, filmed over two years, looks at the campaign by Assange's wife, Stella, and father, John Shipton, to stop the deportation. They travel the world to rally supporters including the dissident artist Ai Weiwei, while fretting about Assange's mental health. "His situation is powerless," Shipton says. "Powerless because it might take his sanity as well. That's the destiny." **JC**

Walter Presents: Mobile 101
Channel 4, 10.55pm

A six-part Finnish thriller telling the story of Nokia. It starts in 1988, after the company — previously a small rubber and manufacturing concern — has made steps to become a leading player in the mobile phone industry. However, it runs into trouble when Motorola sues for patent infringements. The drama follows staff from the lawyers fighting the case and the engineer designing what would become the hugely successful 101 to the chief financial officer, navigating a shareholder coup after the chief executive's suicide. **JC**

Films of the day

The Railway Children (U, 1970)
BBC1, 2.50pm

Lionel Jeffries's take on E Nesbit's children's novel champions sincerity and altruism. Jenny Agutter is impeccable as Bobbie, the posh London suburbanite who predicts "some dire calamity". Almost immediately her beloved Pops is arrested and the family flee to a rat-infested Yorkshire "hovel" (enormous rustic pile), where they eat "scrag end" of lamb and appreciate the cost-free simplicity of waving at trains. There's some light class critique here (they rescue a Russian socialist), but the emotional power resides in Bobbie's yearning for the family reunion that we know is on the way. Jeffries grounded Agutter and her co-star Sally Thomsett (20 when she played 11-year-old Phyllis) after they sneaked off the set for a night on the town. (109min) **Kevin Maher**



Supernova (15, 2020)
BBC2, 10pm

Stanley Tucci plays Tusker, an author with early-onset dementia being chaperoned through a last-hurrah holiday across England by his long-term partner, Sam (Colin Firth, *above with Tucci*). Their destination is a surprise party at the remote home of Sam's sister, Lilly (Pippa Haywood), yet along the way Sam is forced to acknowledge the severity of Tusker's condition (he has abandoned his latest novel) and its damaging effect on their relationship. The writer-director Harry Macqueen realises this story through a series of increasingly desperate exchanges between Sam and Tusker, each punctuated by coolly precise shots of the beautiful yet bleak landscape. And if the film occasionally seems contrived, it still contains two of the strongest performances you'll see. (95min) **KM**

Catch up

Dalgliesh
My5



Bertie Carvel has already proved a more than able successor to Roy Marsden and Martin Shaw as PD James's thoughtful detective Adam Dalgliesh, *right*. This second series is made up of another three stories told over six episodes, and the first two-parter, *Death of an Expert Witness*, begins with the discovery of a dead woman in a "clunch pit", where chalk was once mined. Soon a forensic biologist is found dead in his laboratory, with Dalgliesh called to investigate. But not before we see him reading from his poetry collection to an adoring audience. With respect to all the cast, the success of the series is very much down to Carvel in the title role — there's a watchful seriousness to his interpretation of Dalgliesh that holds your attention. **Ben Dowell**

Regional programmes

- **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** Politics Wales **4.35pm** Wynne's Welsh 70s. Wynne Evans presents archive highlights from 1972 (r) **5.05-5.35pm** Weatherman Walking (r)
- **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.00-11.00am** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland. A review of the election results
- **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 5.15pm** Feed Yourself Fitter with Stephen Nolan. Chef Alex Greene offers Stephen tips on preparing healthy food (r) **5.45-6.15** Family Footsteps. A Co Down family find out what life was like for their ancestors (r) **10.00** Race Across the World (r) **11.00** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland. A review of the local election results (r) **12.00midnight-1.00am** Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian (r)
- **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** The Sunday Show. Martin Geissler brings you all the main issues from the world of politics and beyond **11.40pm** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights. Action from Hibernian v Rangers (r) **12.25am** The Women's Football Show **1.10** MOTD Top 10: Dark Arts **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.45-6.00am** BBC News
- **STV As ITV1 except: 6.45-6.59pm** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
- **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights **8.00** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **8.30** For Peat's Sake (r) **9.00** Paramedics on Scene. A biker's tour of northern Scotland is cut short due to a broken rib **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** Two Doors Down (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Seven Days
- **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Cymylaubychain (r) **6.10** Twt (r) **6.25** Halibalw (r) **6.35** Cacamwnci (r) **6.50** Abadas (r) **7.00** Sigldigwt (r) **7.15** Guto Gwningen (r) **7.30** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **7.40** Octonots (r) **7.50** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **8.00** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **8.10** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **8.25** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **8.35** Ahoi! (r) **8.50** Penblwyddi Cyw **9.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **9.30** Sain Ffagan (r) **10.00** Symud i Gymru (r) **11.00** Ar y Dibyn (r) **11.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (r) **12.00** Yr Wythnos **12.30pm** Dan Do (r) **1.00** Jason Mohammad: Stadiymau'r Byd (r) **2.00** Y Fets (r) **3.00** Ffasiwn Drefn (r) **3.25** Ffermio (r) **3.55** Pobol y Cwm Omnibws (r) **5.00** Live Rygbi. Coverage of the Indigo Group Premiership final (Kick-off TBA) **7.20** News **7.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol **8.00** Iaith ar Daith **9.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **9.45** Y Parchedig Emyr Ddrwg (r) **11.00-11.35** Bois y Rhondda (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Sunday 21

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **7.35** Match of the Day (r) **9.00** Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg **10.00** Politics England **10.30** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **11.00** Live Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Coverage of the 10k race, as the runners looked to emulate last year's winners Jake Robertson and Helen Obiri **1.00pm** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Songs of Praise. Claire McCollum joins nuns making a pilgrimage to sacred sites in County Down **1.50** Points of View **2.05** Escape to the Country (r) **2.50** FILM **The Railway Children (U, 1970)** Period family drama starring Jenny Agutter. **See Film Choice** **4.35** Primates (r) **5.35** BBC News **5.50** BBC Regional News; Weather **6.00** Countdown to RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. A countdown to this year's horticultural extravaganza



Ten Pound Poms continues (9pm)

7.00 Countryfile Sammi Kinghorn presents the first of three visits to a hill farm in Cumbria, where a 16-year-old shepherd recruits her for springtime chores and assisting with a surprise birth

8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce foxtrots with Anton Du Beke in the grounds of Belmont House in Kent. Treasures include a piece of *HMS Bounty*, a pair of bronze owls, and a silver honey pot

9.00 Ten Pound Poms A haunted Terry retraces his steps from the night before, Kate gets a lead on Michael's whereabouts, and Bill goes to extreme lengths to get himself a bit of extra cash. **See Viewing Guide** (2/6)

10.00 BBC News; Weather

10.25 BBC Regional News

10.30 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v Chelsea, Brighton & Hove Albion v Southampton and West Ham United v Leeds United. Plus, a round-up of yesterday's goals

11.40 The Women's Football Show Highlights of the penultimate round of fixtures in the Super League, including Chelsea v Arsenal and Manchester United v Manchester City

12.25am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.30** BBC News. The latest updates

BBC2

6.30am A to Z of TV Gardening (r) **6.50** Gardeners' World (r) **7.50** Countryfile (r) **8.45** Beechgrove Garden (r) **9.15** Landward. Dougie visits six siblings working together to futureproof their family farm **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites **11.15** Family Cooking Showdown (r) **12.15pm** Live MOTD: Women's Super League — Chelsea v Arsenal (Kick-off **12.30**). All the action from both teams' penultimate match of the season at Kingsmeadow **2.35** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League: Castleford Tigers v Hull FC (Kick-off **3.00**). All the action from the sixth-round tie at The Mend-a-Hose Jungle **5.15** Flog It! Valuing items at Wallasey Town Hall on the Wirral (r) **6.15** Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy. The actor samples the country's regional cuisines (r)



Amazing Hotels (8pm)

7.00 Inside the Factory Gregg Wallace visits a factory producing 50,000 litres of dairy ice-cream a day while Ruth Goodman finds out how soft whip became a favourite on Britain's streets (9/10) (r)

8.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby Giles Coren and Monica Galetti travel to Copenhagen to work at Nimb Hotel in Tivoli Gardens, where Giles learns how to get a table at one of the city's most avant-garde restaurant (4/6) (r)

9.00 Simon Reeve's South America In the third part of his journey, Simon travels through the Andes mountains from Peru to Bolivia, beginning at the world-famous ruins of Machu Pichu (3/5) (r)

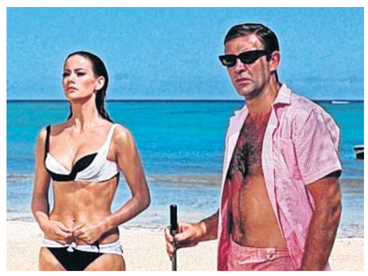
10.00 FILM **Supernova (15, 2020)** Sam and Tusker, partners of 20 years, embark on a journey across England in their old RV to visit friends, family and places from their past. Since Tusker was diagnosed with early-onset dementia two years ago, their time together is the most important thing they have. Drama starring Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci. **See Film Choice**

11.30 Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian The actress explores the Australian concept of "mateship" (2/3) (r)

12.30am Colin from Accounts. Ashley takes Gordon to her birthday dinner (r) **1.00** Sign Zone: Question Time. Fiona Bruce hosts the political debate from Fort William (r) (SL) **2.00-3.00** Steeltown Murders. Crime drama starring Philip Glenister (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am CITV **8.25** ITV News **8.30** Laura Whitmore's Breakfast Show. With Jack Whitehall and Chris Stark **9.25** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh. With Katie Derham and Simon Williams **11.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. With Charlene White (r) **1.40pm** ITV News; Weather **2.00** Goodwoof. Julia Bradbury and Angellica Bell are joined by veterinary expert Paul Manktelow at the Goodwood Estate in West Sussex for a celebration of all things canine **4.00** FILM **Thunderball (PG, 1965)** James Bond sets out to foil a plot by crime syndicate Spectre to detonate two nuclear warheads off the US coast. Spy adventure starring Sean Connery, Claudine Auger, Adolfo Celi and Lois Maxwell **6.30** ITV News; Weather **6.45** Regional News; Weather



Bond film Thunderball (4pm)

7.00 Family Fortunes Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show as a Scottish family go up against a family from Great Yarmouth, trying to guess the most popular responses to surveys posed to 100 people

8.00 The Chase Celebrity Special Danny John-Jules, Yinka Bokinni, Tom Bosworth and Eamonn Holmes answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on a Chaser and secure a charity prize. Hosted by Bradley Walsh

9.00 Malpractice Lucinda's search for the truth becomes dangerous and she needs help from George and Norma, who must decide whether they can trust her (5/5)

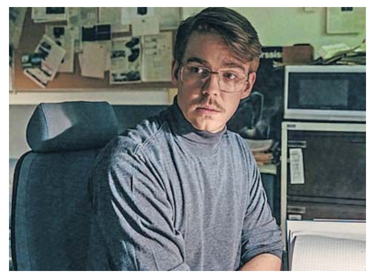
10.05 ITV News

10.20 Ithaka: The Fight to Free Assange Filmed over two years and across three continents, this documentary tells the story of the campaign by Julian Assange's wife and father to prevent his extradition to America, where he faces a maximum 175-year prison sentence. Weaving historic archive and intimate behind-the-scenes footage, the film tracks their journey. **See Viewing Guide**

12.20am Teleshopping **3.00** Motorsport UK. Richard John Neil presents action from Donington Park, featuring the British F4 Championship and the Porsche Carrera Cup GB (r) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Ainsley's Food We Love. A pasta feast (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.20am Cheers (r) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.05** The King of Queens **9.30** Sunday Brunch. With Joe Pasquale, Melanie Schilling, Eddi Reader and Pearl Mackie **12.30pm** The Simpsons (r) **1.00** The Simpsons (r) **1.25** The Simpsons (r) **1.55** The Simpsons (r) **2.20** The Simpsons (r) **2.50** FILM **School of Rock (PG, 2003)** A slobbish guitarist posing as a supply teacher to make money after getting dumped by his band moulds his pupils into a new rock group. Comedy starring Jack Black and Joan Cusack **5.00** Billionaire Blooms. Kelly Louise designs a floral dreamworld for a wealthy American couple. Last in the series **6.00** Channel 4 News **6.30** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds. The best ways to make a budget stretch (r)



New drama Motorola 101 (10.55pm)

7.00 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations George meets James, who has bought a former glassworks in Brighton and decided to painstakingly restore the whole property, down to the very last detail (r)

8.00 The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer Carol Vorderman, Kelly Brook, Rob Rinder and Mo Gilligan take part in the culinary challenge, and prepare a showstopper based on their favourite guilty pleasure (r)

9.00 Depp v Heard New series. Documentary exploring the tumultuous defamation trial between Johnny Depp and his former wife Amber Heard — the first in US history to be fully broadcast live. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)

10.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their reactions (r)

10.55 Walter Presents: Mobile 101 Drama based on the true story of Nokia's rise from a small Finnish electronics company to a global titan of the mobile phone industry. Starring Oona Airola. In Finnish and English. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)

12.05am FILM **Second Act (12, 2018)** Romantic comedy starring Jennifer Lopez and Milo Ventimiglia **1.50** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A restaurant in LA (r) (SL) **2.40** Come Dine with Me (r) **4.50** Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (r) **5.15** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **10.00** The Smurfs **10.10** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **10.25** Entertainment News on 5 **10.35** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **11.35** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **12.40pm** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Following Brits who moved to Spain (r) **1.40** Yorkshire: Springtime in the Wild. Wildlife in the Yorkshire Dales and on the North York Moors (r) **2.40** Cruising the Med with Susan Calman. The comedian boards cruise ship *Harmony of the Seas* (r) **4.30** Adele: 30 Greatest Moments. A countdown of memorable events from the singer's career, from the time the north London teenager first burst onto the scene in 2008 to the present day. The programme visits some of the key places in Adele's life (r) **6.25** 5 News Weekend



The Caravan Park (8pm)

6.30 Britain's Favourite Toys Ever! A nostalgic look at the 25 most popular and best-selling toys of the 1970s, '80s and '90s, including Action Man, Sindy, Trivial Pursuit, Rubik's Cube and Sylvanian Families (r)

8.00 Happy Campers: The Caravan Park New series. The return of the documentary following life at caravan parks and campsites across south-west England, with staff preparing for the first arrivals of summer (1/8)

9.00 Rich House, Poor House New series. A devoted single mum from Essex who survives on less than £60 a week and dreams of opening a Caribbean food business swaps lives with a multimillionaire businessman (1/8)

10.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun A woman has taken over a local beauty salon and in an effort to attract new clients she decides to put on a spectacular hair and beauty show (2/10) (r)

10.55 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments Infamous incidents from the 1990s, including OJ Simpson's live television car chase, Eric Cantona kicking a fan, Robbie Williams leaving Take That and Liz Hurley's Versace dress (2/10) (r)

12.55am Entertainment News **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** The Yorkshire Vet (r) **3.55** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45** Thomas (r) (SL)

Sunday 21 | Primetime digital guide



Weird Science
Kelly LeBrock and Anthony Michael Hall star in the 1985 sci-fi comedy
BBC3, 9.45pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am Cristo A look over the latest news headlines
7.00 David Bull The presenter brings the latest on the biggest stories of the day
10.00 Richard Tice The broadcaster examines the state of the nation
1.00pm Trisha Goddard The broadcaster looks through the week's leading stories and gives her opinion on the biggest social dilemmas making the news this week
4.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The presenter tackles the big stories of the day, champions free speech
7.00 The Sunday Night Club with Mark Saggers The host reflects on the sporting weekend and more
10.00-12.00m't The Unexplained with Howard Hughes The presenter investigates more of life's mysteries

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm EastEnders
7.30 EastEnders
8.00 Meet the Khans Relationship Quiz
8.05 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Faryal has big plans for her makeup launch (7/8)
8.30 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton The Khans buy a holiday home in Dubai (8/8)
9.00 I Kissed a Boy A resident makes a decision that sends shockwaves through the masseria (3/8)
9.45 FILM Weird Science (15, 1985) Two teens design the perfect woman using their computer, but are shocked when she comes to life. Sci-fi comedy with Kelly LeBrock
11.15 Search Party New series. Portia, Elliott and Drew notice a disconcerting change in Dory (1/10)
11.45-12.15am Search Party Dory catches up with her friends to make amends (2/10)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm John Williams at the BBC Performances featuring the guitarist, from an archive spanning 50 years. The programme includes classical masterworks, the prog rock of Sky and comedy with Eric Sykes
8.00 BBC's Earth Prom with Chris Packham Ben Palmer conducts the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in music from BBC natural history documentaries, presented by Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin
9.55 Hans Zimmer: Hollywood Rebel Profile of the composer responsible for some of the best-loved film and television scores of the past few decades
10.55-12.10am Tracey Emin: Where Do You Draw the Line?: Imagine Alan Yentob follows the artist over the course of a year

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Come Dine with Me A theatre nurse hosts the fourth dinner party in Devon
7.25 Come Dine with Me A retired housekeeper hosts the final night in Devon
8.00 Château DIY: Living the Dream New series. A look back at highlights from the series following British families renovating châteaux in France
9.00 999: On the Front Line A young man with curvature of the spine has multiple triggers for sepsis (10/10)
10.00 The Emergency Ward A patient has potential spinal injuries after landing on his head during a mountain bike race crash
11.00 Emergency Helicopter Medics A cyclist suffers life-threatening injuries after a collision with a car in Oxfordshire (11/11)
12.00-1.00am The Good Doctor

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm True Blood Bill asks his superiors for permission to put Eric to death. Sookie sets out in search of Jason under the full moon, and Jesus introduces Lafayette to his grandfather (6/12) (R)
7.50 Catherine the Great Catherine struggles to deal with Potemkin's moods and jealousy and tragedy strikes for Paul, forcing her to resort to extreme measures (3/4) (R)
9.00 Succession Drama about a dysfunctional media dynasty starring Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin (8/10) (R)
10.10 Perry Mason Perry and Della try to build a defence for their clients (3/8) (R)
11.15-12.30am Patrick Melrose Patrick attends his mother's funeral as he attempts to put the ghosts of the past to rest (5/5) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.20pm David James: The One and Only The former England star looks at the past, present and future of goalkeeping (R)
8.00 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary in which former diplomat Jan Stocklassa investigates the assassination of prime minister of Sweden Olof Palme in 1986 (2/4)
9.00 Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King The rise and fall of the former Spanish king Juan Carlos I, who modernised his nation after the Franco regime, but was later forced to abdicate. **See Viewing Guide** (1/4) (R)
10.00 Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King The rise and fall of the former Spanish king. **See Viewing Guide** (2/4)
11.00-1.15am FILM Tina (15, 2021) A celebration of Tina Turner's life and career

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

5.40pm FILM Shanghai Knights (12, 2003) Comedy sequel starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson
8.00 FILM Pitch Perfect 2 (12, 2015) Comedy sequel starring Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Hailee Steinfeld and Brittany Snow
10.15 Family Guy Lois is sent to prison for persistent shoplifting
10.45 Family Guy Chris develops a crush on his new teacher
11.15 Family Guy Peter decides he needs to achieve fame
11.40-12.10am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

5.10pm Agatha Christie's Marple A personal column reveals details of a forthcoming murder (4/4)
7.10 Endeavour When a GP is found dead in a public lavatory, the young Morse's theories see him relegated to general duties (1/5)
9.00 Long Lost Family Helping people reunite with relatives (1/10)
10.00 Lewis Part one of two. The detective comes out of retirement to assist on a murder case (1/6)
11.50-12.25am Ladies of Letters Damon eats Irene's drugs (7/10)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm Monster Carp Ali Hamidi visits Hungary with carp fanatics Neil Spooner and Tom Dove (2/4)
8.00 FILM The A-Team (12, 2010) Four soldiers jailed for a crime they did not commit escape from prison and track down the culprit. Action adventure with Liam Neeson
10.20-12.35am FILM A Good Man (15, 2014) A former soldier trying to live a quiet life as a handyman defends a family caught in the middle of a gang war. Action thriller starring Steven Seagal

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

6.40pm The Big Bang Theory Amy and Sheldon go on honeymoon
7.05 FILM Crocodile Dundee (15, 1986) Comedy starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski
9.00 FILM Hancock (12, 2008) A PR executive decides to transform the image of a drunken superhero whose careless crime-fighting often does more harm than good. Comedy starring Will Smith
10.50 Naked Attraction With a retired dentist and a former marine
11.55-1.00am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.20pm Red Dwarf
8.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads Jamie-Lee O'Donnell and Saoirse-Monica Jackson, who are best friends and stars of the hit sitcom *Derry Girls*, are heading way out of their comfort zone as they tackle rugged Romania
9.00 Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled With Sue Perkins, Jamali Maddix, Lara Ricote and Josh Jones
10.00 Meet the Richardsons
10.40 Gavin & Stacey
12.00-12.40am Red Dwarf

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.55pm Father Brown The sleuth tries to solve a case involving a musical director
7.55 Jonathan Creek A man claims to have sold his soul to the Devil
9.00 Jonathan Creek A widow's nightmares start to come true
10.05 Whitechapel Rupert Penry-Jones stars as a detective hunting a modern-day serial killer mirroring Jack the Ripper
11.05-12.05am Whitechapel Buchan's knowledge of Jack the Ripper helps Chandler

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers and Cash Derek picks up a Jaguar E-type and a rare MGC convertible (3/15)
8.00 'Allo 'Allo! Herr Flick is imprisoned in General Von Klinkerhoffen's dungeon
8.35 'Allo 'Allo! Herr Flick orders Helga to collect evidence of the supposed plot to blow up Hitler
9.05 'Allo 'Allo!
9.40 'Allo 'Allo!
10.10 Classic Car Garage (5/10)
11.10-12.10am Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (2/6)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.05pm Nazca Desert Mystery An investigation into the Nazca lines
7.20 Mussolini: The First Fascist This film explores the mechanisms of Fascist power, the cult of violence and repression. (1/2)
8.25 Mussolini: The First Fascist The downfall of the dictator (2/2)
9.40 Ku Klux Klan: An American Story Documentary
10.50 Ku Klux Klan: An American Story Documentary
12.00-1.15am Nazca Desert Mystery Documentary

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir The couple paint gannets in East Yorkshire (5/6)
8.00 Live from the Artists Den Robert Plant performs with Band of Joy at Nashville's War Memorial Auditorium (4/6)
9.00 Peter O'Toole: Along the Sky Road to Aqaba Documentary reflecting on the actor's legacy
11.00-12.15am Women Who Rock Documentary taking a trip to the 1950s and 60s to the roots of rock 'n' roll (1/4)

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Lost Worlds The life of Russia's first Tsar, Ivan the Terrible
8.00 Lost Worlds How the preserved marble city of Aphrodisias was rediscovered
9.00 Einsatzgruppen: The Nazi Death Squads The mass executions carried out by the Third Reich's Einsatzgruppen (1/4)
10.00 Einsatzgruppen: The Nazi Death Squads The Third Reich's Einsatzgruppen (2/4)
11.00 Deadman's Curse (2/8)
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm FILM The Last Witch Hunter (12, 2015) Fantasy adventure starring Vin Diesel
9.00 S.W.A.T An armoured truck heist ends in bloodshed
10.00 NCIS: Los Angeles The team investigates when a Navy reservist is stabbed and his lab full of pesticides and insects is ransacked
11.00 Fantasy Island A percussionist wants to be accepted by her Cuban family (4/10)
12.00-1.00am The Force: North East Documentary (7/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Lost Treasures of Rome Archaeologists venture into the Colosseum's ruins (3/6)
8.00 Drain the Oceans New series. Remains from a forgotten trade route of cargo ships in the Pacific
9.00 Kingdom of the Mummies Dr Ramadan Hussein examines a 12-tonne sarcophagus (3/4)
10.00 UFOs: Investigating the Unknown Documentary (3/5)
11.00 America's Hardest Prisons
12.00-1.00am America's Hardest Prisons Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Moonshiners: Master Distiller Aspiring moonshiners compete to make corn liquor
8.00 Plane Reclaimers
9.00 Blowing Up History The sacred city of Nippur
10.00 Roadworthy Rescues
11.00 Wheeler Dealers
12.00-1.00am Naked and Afraid

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.30 The Office (US)
8.00 The Office (US)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Sex and the City
9.35 Sex and the City
10.15 American Auto (9/13)
11.15 Curb Your Enthusiasm (2/10)
11.50-12.25am Curb Your Enthusiasm (1/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM The Other Woman (12, 2014) Comedy with Cameron Diaz
11.00 Lee Evans: XL Tour
12.00-1.00am Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Only Fools and Horses
7.40 Only Fools and Horses
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 Billy Connolly Does Billy talks about his lifelong love of nature
10.00 The Fast Show
10.40 The Fast Show
11.20 The Fast Show
12.00-1.00am Billy Connolly Does

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance
8.00 Inside the Operating Theatre A gall bladder removal
9.00 Katie Piper's Face to Face Katie invites women with facial conditions for a special makeover
10.00 DNA Family Secrets
11.20-12.20am Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over Documentary

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Hudson & Rex (3/16)
8.00 Hudson & Rex (4/16)
9.00 Death in Paradise A TV presenter's body is washed up on the shore (3/8)
10.00 CSI: Vegas A video-game developer's body is found floating in a fountain (3/10)
11.00-12.10am Smother (4/6)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

11.00am Live SPFL: Hibernian v Rangers (Kick-off **12.00**)
1.00pm Live Super Sunday: West Ham United v Leeds United (Kick-off **1.30**). The Premier League match from The London Stadium
3.30 Live Super Sunday: Manchester City v Chelsea (Kick-off **4.00**) At Etihad Stadium
7.00-12.00m't Live PGA Championship Golf Coverage of the fourth and final day
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Basketball Coverage of a play-off match

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

12.30pm Live Super Sunday: West Ham United v Leeds United (Kick-off **1.30**) At London Stadium
3.30 Live Super Sunday: Manchester City v Chelsea (Kick-off **4.00**) At Etihad Stadium
7.00 Live WSL: Manchester United v Manchester City (Kick-off **6.45**)
9.30 MNF VAR Studio Special With Howard Webb
10.00 PL Highlights
10.30 PL Highlights
11.00 PL Highlights
11.30-12.00m't PL Highlights



Manchester City's Erling Haaland and Pep Guardiola face Chelsea (Sky Main Event, 3.30pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

10.50am Live Indian Premier League: Mumbai Indians v Sunrisers Hyderabad The T20 match from Wankhede Stadium
2.50pm Live Indian Premier League: Royal Challengers Bangalore v Gujarat Titans
7.00 Ashes Greats
8.00 IPL Action from Mumbai Indians v Sunrisers Hyderabad
9.00 IPL Royal Challengers Bangalore v Gujarat Titans
10.00 IPL Highlights of a match
11.00-12.00m't IPL

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

6.00-9.00am Live AFL: Carlton Blues v Collingwood Magpies
12.00-2.30pm Live FA Vase: Ascot United v Newport Pagnell Town (Kick-off **12.15**)
3.30-6.45 Live FA Trophy: FC Halifax Town v Gateshead (Kick-off **4.15**) At Wembley Stadium
7.30-9.45 Live Ligue 1: Auxerre v Paris Saint-Germain (Kick-off **7.45**)
10.00 High Performance Podcast
11.00 Live Baseball Tonight
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: New York Mets v Cleveland Guardians

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.30-8.00am Live V8 Supercars Championship Coverage of race 12 from the latest round of the season
11.30-1.30pm Live Serie A: Lecce v Spezia (Kick-off **11.30**)
2.00-4.00 Live Serie A: Torino v Fiorentina (Kick-off **2.00**)
4.45 Live Serie A: Napoli v Inter Milan (Kick-off **5.00**)
7.00 Live Golazzo
7.45 Live Serie A: Udinese v Lazio (Kick-off **7.45**). Coverage of the fixture from Dacia Arena
10.00-1.00am UFC

Sunday 21

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

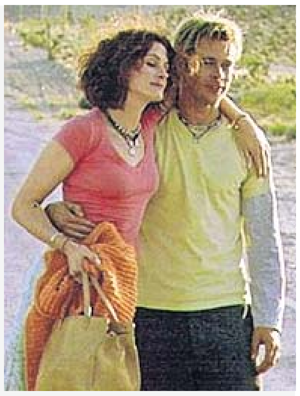
11.00am Tad the Lost Explorer and the Secret of King Midas (U, 2017) Animated adventure with the voice of Oscar Barberan
12.40pm The Perfect Catch (PG, 2005) Romantic comedy starring Jimmy Fallon
2.50 Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG, 2011) Animated comedy sequel with the voices of Jack Black and Gary Oldman
4.40 The Devil Wears Prada (PG, 2006) Comedy drama starring Meryl Streep
6.55 Daddy's Home 2 (12, 2017) Comedy starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg
9.00 The Sum of All Fears (12, 2002) Action thriller with Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman
11.20-1.15am Another 48 Hrs (18, 1990) Comedy thriller sequel starring Nick Nolte

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Beauty and the Barge (U, 1937) Comedy starring Gordon Harker
7.30 Tons of Trouble (U, 1956) Comedy starring Richard Hearne and William Hartnell
9.05 Chase a Crooked Shadow (U, 1957) Thriller starring Richard Todd
10.50 The Second Time Around (U, 1961) Comedy starring Debbie Reynolds
12.45pm Passport to Pimlico (U, 1949) Ealing comedy starring Stanley Holloway and Margaret Rutherford
2.30 The Larkins
3.00 Green for Danger (PG, 1946) Comedy thriller starring Alastair Sim and Sally Gray
4.50 Centenary Express
5.00 The Footage Detectives
6.00 The Saint
7.00 Vote for Huggett (U, 1949) Comedy starring Jack Warner and Kathleen Harrison
8.40 Look at Life
9.00 Van der Valk
10.00 Never Take Candy from a Stranger (18, 1960) Drama starring Patrick Allen
11.40-1.45am The Informers (12, 1963) Thriller with Nigel Patrick and Margaret Whiting

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am GREAT! Movie News
9.10 Where Angels Fear to Tread (PG, 1991) Period drama starring Helena Bonham Carter and Judy Davis
11.30 Starman (PG, 1984) Sci-fi fantasy starring Jeff Bridges and Karen Allen
1.45pm Emma (U, 1996) Jane Austen drama with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeremy Northam
4.10 Hook (U, 1991) Peter Pan adventure starring Robin Williams and Dustin Hoffman
6.55 Street Fighter (12, 1994) Action adventure starring Jean-Claude Van Damme



Julie Roberts and Brad Pitt star (GREAT! Movies, 9pm)

9.00 The Mexican (15, 2001) Comedy thriller starring Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts
11.25-1.35am Cash (15, 2010) Thriller starring Sean Bean and Chris Hemsworth

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors
6.35 Off Set
7.15 One of Our Spies is Missing (U, 1966) Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum
9.05 The Helicopter Spies (PG, 1967) Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn
11.00 The Wrong Man (PG, 1956) Alfred Hitchcock's fact-based drama with Henry Fonda and Vera Miles
1.10pm The Naked Spur (PG, 1953) Western starring James Stewart and Ralph Meeker
3.00 The Plunderers (PG, 1960) Western starring Jeff Chandler and John Saxon
4.55 Return of the Gunfighter (U, 1967) Western with Robert Taylor and Chad Everett
7.00 A Thunder of Drums (PG, 1961) Western starring Richard Boone, George Hamilton and Luana Patten
9.00 Magnum Force (18, 1973) Action thriller sequel starring Clint Eastwood
11.35-1.20am Hell Ride (15, 2008) Thriller starring Larry Bishop and Michael Madsen

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.25pm The Voyagers (PG, 2022) Fantasy adventure starring Matteo Schiavone
2.25 Dead Shot (15, 2023) Thriller starring Colin Morgan
4.15 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022) Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville
6.15 Alone Together (15, 2022) Premiere. Romantic drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess
8.00 Confess, Fletch (15, 2022) Comedy thriller with Jon Hamm and Roy Wood Jr
9.45 The Cinema List: The 90s With Alex Zane
10.00-11.55pm Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022) Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Sunday Morning with Kate McCann and Adam Boulton **1.00pm** Alexis Conran **4.00** Ayesha Hazarika. Headlines **7.00** Highlights from Times Radio **8.00** Stories of Our Times **8.30** Best of Matt Chorley **9.00** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Tracks of My Years **6.00** Good Morning Sunday **9.00** Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs **11.00** Nicki Chapman **1.00pm** Samantha Barks on Sunday **3.00** Sounds of the 70s with Johnnie Walker **5.00** Rob Beckett **7.00** Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour **8.00** Sunday Night Is Music Night. The music of Bing Crosby and other "crooners" (r) **10.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **12.00** Phil Williams **3.00am** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

7.00am Breakfast
9.00 Sunday Morning
12.00 Private Passions
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Alina Ibragimova and Cédric Tiberghien perform violin sonatas. Schumann (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor, Op 105 and Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor, Op 121) (r)
2.00 The Early Music Show Exploring the Handel & Hendrix in London museum, which reopens this month after 18 months of renovations
3.00 Choral Evensong From St Martin-in-the-Fields, London (r)
4.00 Jazz Record Requests With Alyn Shipton
5.00 The Listening Service Tom Service explores music that accompanies cartoons (r)
5.30 Words and Music A sequence of poetry, prose and music on the theme of old age
6.45 Sunday Feature: Clocks and Clouds — An Adventure Around Gyorgy Ligeti A portrait of the composer (r)
7.30 Drama on 3: The Women of Troy Linda Marshall Griffiths' contemporary adaptation of Euripides' tragedy, which examines the aftermath of war and asks if hope can be found
8.50 Record Review Extra The recommended version of Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*
11.00 The Story of the Little Book Emma Jenkins reflects on contemporary opera
12.00 Classical Fix A bespoke playlist for Kate Silverton
12.30am Through the Night (r)

Today's pick

A Room with a View
Radio 4, 3pm



Marcy Kahan's adaptation may not have the sunlit visuals of the 1985 Merchant Ivory film, but it is a neat retelling of EM Forster's saga of class and forbidden love that begins with Lucy Honeychurch (Rosie Day, *right*) staying in a Florence pensione. Her life changes when she and her chaperone Charlotte (Rosie Cavaliero) are offered a room by the rough-hewn Mr Emerson (Gerard McDermott) and his son George (Luke Thallon). After a fleeting moment of passion the story moves to rural England and perhaps the most famous skinny-dipping scene in literature. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Bells on Sunday
5.45 Profile (r)
6.00 News Headlines
6.05 Something Understood Various senses of self (r)
6.35 On Your Farm
7.00 News and Papers
7.10 Sunday
7.54 Radio 4 Appeal
8.00 News and Papers
8.10 Sunday Worship
8.48 A Point of View (r)
8.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
9.00 Broadcasting House
10.00 The Archers (r)
11.15 Desert Island Discs
12.01pm (LW) Shipping
12.04 Just a Minute (r)
12.30 The Food Programme
1.00 The World This Weekend
1.30 Conspiracies: The Secret Knowledge Enoch Powell's personal crusade against the "enemy within"
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time Listeners' queries (r)
2.45 Opening Lines John Yorke explores EM Forster's novel *A Room with a View* (1/2)
3.00 Drama: Love Stories — A Room with a View By EM Forster. **See Choice** (1/2)
4.00 Open Book Reviews
4.30 Whose Truth Is It Anyway? New series. Reality, truth and fiction in literature
5.00 Affirmative Action on Trial: File on 4 (3/3) (r)
5.40 Profile (r)
5.54 Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Pick of the Week
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Mark Steel's in Town (r)
7.45 On Portobello Prom By Sara Sheridan (3/5)
8.00 Feedback (r)
8.30 Last Word (r)
9.00 Money Box (r)
9.25 Radio 4 Appeal (r)
9.30 Short Cuts (r)
10.00 The Westminster Hour
11.00 Loose Ends (r)
11.30 Something Understood
12.00 News and Weather
12.15am Thinking Allowed (r)
12.45 Bells on Sunday (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Ukrainecast **6.00** Science **7.00** Breakfast **10.00** Helen Skelton **12.00** 5 Live Sport **1.30pm** 5 Live Sport: West Ham Utd v Leeds Utd (Kick-off **1.30**) **3.30** 5 Live Sport **4.00** 5 Live Sport: Man City v Chelsea (Kick-off **4.00**) **6.00** 6-0-6 **7.45** Women's Football: Man Utd v Man City. Second-half coverage **8.40** 5 Live News **9.00** 5 Live Golf **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am Weekend Sports Breakfast **9.00** Jonny Owen and Friends **11.00** Warm Up **1.00pm** Sunday Session **5.00** Boot Room **8.00** A talkSPORT Special **9.00** Trans Europe Express **12.00** A talkSPORT Special **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am Cristo **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Richard Tice **1.00pm** Trisha Goddard **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **7.00** Sunday Night Club **10.00** The Unexplained **12.00** That Was The Woke That Was **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

7.50am Young Victoria **9.00** Instant Sunshine **9.30** The Navy Lark **10.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **10.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **11.00** Poetry Extra **11.30** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.40pm** Inheritance Tracks **12.50** Young Victoria **2.00** Instant Sunshine **2.30** The Navy Lark **3.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **3.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **4.00** To See the Sun **4.30** The Golden Apples of the Sun **5.00** Poetry Extra **5.30** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **6.40** Inheritance Tracks **6.50** Young Victoria. By Juliet Ace **8.00** Instant Sunshine **8.30** The Navy Lark **9.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **9.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **10.00** Start/Stop **10.30** Isy Suttie's Love Letters **10.55** Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Andy Hamilton Sort of Remembers **11.30** Brian Appleton's History of Rock 'n' Roll **11.45** Self Storage **12.00** Poetry Extra **12.30am** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** From Our Own Correspondent **9.30** Outlook **10.00** News **10.06** Music Life **11.00** Newsroom **11.30** Trending **11.50** More or Less **12.00** News **12.06pm** BBC OS Conversations **12.30** Assignment **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** Music Life **3.00** News **3.06** Sportsworld **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Unspun World **8.00** News **8.06** The Science Hour **9.00** Newshour **10.06** The Climate Question **10.30** Pick of the World **10.50** Over to You **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Outlook **12.00** News **12.06am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.30** Trending **12.50** More or Less **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** CrowdScience **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Pick of the World **3.50** Over to You **4.00** Newsroom **4.30** The Conversation

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Amy Lamé **8.00** Radcliffe and Maconie **10.00** Cerys Matthews **1.00pm** Journeys in Sound **2.00** Guy Garvey's Finest Hour **4.00** Iggy Pop **6.00** Now Playing **8.00** Stuart Maconie **10.00** Don Letts **12.00** Guy Garvey's Finest Hour **2.00am** Jukebox **3.00** Rave Forever **4.00** The BBC Introducing Mixtape

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Amy Voce **9.30** The Graham Norton Radio Show **12.30pm** Stu Elmore **4.00** Tim Cocker **7.00** Sunday Special **8.00** Bam **12.00** My 80s Playlist **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Aled Jones **10.00** Andrew Marr **1.00pm** Catherine Bott **4.00** John Humphrys **7.00** Smooth Classics **9.00** Nature Notes with Alan Titchmarsh **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Monday 22 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice

Maryland

ITV1, 9pm

The discovery of a body on a beach might seem as conventional a TV drama opening as you can imagine. But this three-parter, based on an idea developed by its star, Suranne Jones, with the writer Anne Marie O'Connor, is anything but run of the mill. The dead woman is Mary, and the location is the Isle of Man, which compounds the shock for Mary's daughters, Becca (Jones, *right*) and Rosaline (Eve Best). Mary had led everyone to believe that she was holidaying in Wales. She, of course, cannot answer her daughter's many questions, and the slow reveals can be surprising and intense but rarely stretch credulity. In many ways this is a love story involving the two sisters and their quest to solve years of buried resentment. Becca has felt put upon by her husband and blood family, caring for Rosaline (a cancer survivor) and, later, her mother. As someone who has invested so much in her family, Becca feels Mary's betrayal more keenly. Rosaline has her own narrative, and their flare-ups can be prompted by the smallest provocation (in a way that any sibling would recognise). The sisters' resolve is further tested when they meet Mary's Manx friends — Hugh Quarshie's inscrutable Pete and the lively American Cathy, played — in a not unimpressive casting coup — by Stockard Channing (Rizzo from *Grease*). Mary's irascible widower, Richard (George Costigan), is another enigma. Grouching away on the mainland, does he know more than he is letting on? It's beautifully directed by Sue Tully, with breathtaking seascapes. The second episode is tomorrow and the drama concludes on Wednesday. Ben Dowell



Succession

Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm

The protesters are on the streets after ATN called the election for right-winger Jeryd Mencken — and Logan Roy finally has his send-off. *Church and State*, the penultimate episode of a drama so good it is almost frightening, begins with Roman confidently rehearsing his funeral oration before, inevitably, cracking disgustingly inappropriate jokes. It's not the only thing that might make you catch your breath in tonight's longer episode — it's nearly 1hr 15min. The only development that won't shock you is the sight of the Roy boys' and Shiv's ferocious plotting between all the consoling handshakes. **BD**

Steeltown Murders

BBC1, 9pm

At the end of the opening episode of this excellent south Wales true crime drama, Philip Glenister's DCI Bethell had confirmation that he was investigating a serial killer. In the 1973 timeline we see a younger Bethell (Scott Arthur) under orders from stubborn bosses not to pursue a link. The writer Ed Whitmore continues to keep a firm control of the double timelines, and the tension ratchets in the 2000s when Bethell pays a visit to Sandra's stepfather, Dai, once a person of interest. He's played by Keith Allen with all the fearsome energy we have come to expect from this underrated performer. **BD**

Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland

BBC2, 9pm

This new series about ordinary people's experiences of the Troubles begins, rather brilliantly, with a woman remembering the time that she competed for the Miss Ireland crown in the 1980s. During the whole ridiculous pageant nobody knew her story, she said — that her brother had been murdered. Over the course of this five-part series an array of personal reflections from all areas of Northern Irish society is neatly interwoven with powerful archive footage. Let's hope the message is clear and we never return to those dark days. **BD**

Saving Venice

BBC4, 9pm

"You can't say you live in Venice without understanding the importance of water for the city," a local woman says. The city is one of the glories of western civilisation, and water has been its lifeblood, but we are told that it has experienced nine extreme floods in the 20th century and 16 in the first two decades of this century. This film shows the extent of the problem caused by climate change, but also examines solutions, including a multibillion-pound flood-defence system. Given that more than a hundred large global cities are coastal, their efforts could point the way for the world. **BD**

Catch up

Magpie Murders
BBC iPlayer

Anthony Horowitz's 2016 novel was a "book within a book". The first half is a story by the crime writer Alan Conway that has an amateur detective called Atticus Pünd investigating a murder in a sleepy English village. However, there is a twist — the last chapter of Conway's book, which identifies the murderer, is missing. The author can't help because he has apparently just committed suicide. The second book follows Susan Ryeland as she searches for clues for whodunnit in the whodunnit, and her inquiries inevitably become relevant to Conway's death. Horowitz has adapted his novel into a quirky six-part drama that has a dual narrative: one set in the present, with Lesley Manville as Ryeland and Conleth Hill as Conway; the second in the 1950s, with Tim McMullan, *left with Manville*, playing the fictional detective Pünd. Fans of small-screen sleuthing will love it. **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 8.00pm** Weatherman Walking **8.30-9.00** Landfill: Britain's Toxic Secrets: Panorama. Current affairs report **10.40** Rookie Nurses (r) **11.10** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **11.55-12.55am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star. The MUAs create special effects make-up for the BBC show Ghosts
• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 8.00pm** Family Footsteps. The family delves further into the past to discover a shocking secret **8.30-9.00** Landfill: Britain's Toxic Secrets: Panorama **10.40** The Peninsula Nurses. Part one of two. Documentary following the Ards Peninsula district nurses **11.10** Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Mel Giedroyc hosts (r) **11.55** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star **12.55-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 8.30-9.00pm** Scotland's Home of the Year **11.25** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights (r) **12.10am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.15-6.00am** BBC News
• **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.40pm** Sharp End
• **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** The 1% Club. Quiz, hosted by Lee Mack (r) **12.00-3.00** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
• **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.40pm** View from Stormont
• **BBC Scotland 2.00pm** Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Landward (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Zoo (r) **7.00** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights **7.45** Sportscene Goals+ **8.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City **10.30** Anton Danyluk on Body Shame (r) **11.00** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond (r)
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **12.00** News **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **1.30** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Ffit Cymru (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.45** Sigldigwt (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Angelo am Byth (r) **5.10** Cath-Od (r) **5.20** Chwarter Call (r) **5.35** Lego DREAMZzz **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Cymry ar Gynfas **8.25** Garddio a Mwy **8.55** News **9.00** Ffermio **9.30** Nôl i'r Gwersyll (r) **10.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **11.00-11.35** Dan Do (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

Bad Neighbours (15, 2014)

Sky Cinema Comedy/Now, 6.20pm

This robust comedy may ostensibly be about the feud between the homeowners and new parents Mac (Seth Rogen) and Kelly (Rose Byrne) and the hard-partying fraternity who move in next door. But what it does best is nail the angst of people realising that the birth of their baby also means the death of cool. Mac and Kelly are the first among their friends to have a child and buy a house. And although they would like to believe that they are still the same people they were before they had these responsibilities, to the boorish frat president Teddy Sanders (Zac Efron) they are the "old people". Rogen and Byrne have joined forces for a new comedy series, *Platonic*, which starts on AppleTV+ on Wednesday. (95min) **Wendy Ide**



Do the Right Thing (15, 1989)

BBC2, 11.15pm

Still one of the most important films about the racial dynamics of America, and certainly Spike Lee's finest film, this pulsing, vibrant drama takes place against the backdrop of a racially and culturally mixed Brooklyn neighbourhood. The hottest day of the year causes the powder keg of tensions to ignite, with tragic and unforeseen circumstances. Lee's angry clarity brings an uncomfortable focus on the hatred and bigotry that swills around the streets. He offers no solutions, but confronts us with the facts — the audience is left with no doubts about the authenticity of the story. Samuel L Jackson, John Turturro, Danny Aiello, Rosie Perez and Lee, *above with Aiello*, star in a picture that was nominated for two Oscars, including one for Lee's script. (120min) **WI**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Monday 22

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Rob comes to see the dangers of clinging to past traumas **2.15** Money for Nothing. Restoring metal railings and a tired writing bureau **3.00** Escape to the Country. A retired couple try to find a new home in Northumberland **3.45** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. New series. The famous horticultural event **4.30** The Repair Shop. A small broken statue and a glamorous painting are among the items (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Philip Glenister stars (9pm)

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Roman Kemp present topical stories and celebrity chat

7.30 EastEnders Stacey speaks to the headmaster but is mortified when she finds out the students have access to her cam page

8.00 Landfill: Britain's Toxic Secrets: Panorama Covering a story behind the headlines

8.30 Scam Interceptors Rav Wilding and Jim Browning join forces with ethical hackers to hunt down criminals (6/10) (r)

9.00 Steeltown Murders With the swabbing operation set in motion, Paul looks to not only find his killer, but to eliminate individuals whose past has been defined by false accusations and rumours. **See Viewing Guide** (2/4)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Mel Giedroyc hosts an extended episode of the satirical quiz (6/10) (r)

11.25 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The MUAs work in pairs to create special effects make-up for the BBC show *Ghosts*, and are judged by the Hair and Make-up Designer Natalie Pateman (3/8) (r)

12.25am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.30** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.45am Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip (r) **7.15** Bargain Hunt (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Cornwall (r) (SL) **8.30** Designing the Hebrides (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Sean goes on a bikepacking adventure (r) **3.15** Eat Well for Less? A family of fussy eaters. Last in the series (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The contestants redesign cafes (r) **5.15** Flog It! Previously unseen finds (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Mehreen Baig, Clare Balding, Jamie Laing and Mike Wozniak (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. New series. Michael Portillo heads to the Isle of Man



Stories from the Troubles (9pm)

7.00 Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers The history of the River Nith in the southwest (4/6)

7.30 RHS Chelsea Flower Show The BBC gardening team present the sights and sounds of the famous event, with highlights of the gardens and tips for amateur horticulturists

8.30 University Challenge The second and concluding semi-final sees two teams of four students battling it out

9.00 Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland New series. Stories of the Troubles from people on all sides of the conflict, beginning by looking at how the situation in Northern Ireland in the late-1960s deteriorated. **See Viewing Guide** (1/5)

10.15 QI XS Highlights from recent series of the show (4/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight The day's important national and international news, presented by Kirsty Wark

11.15 FILM Do the Right Thing (15, 1989) A pizza parlour is the focus of simmering racial tensions on the hottest day of the summer in a Brooklyn neighbourhood. Drama starring Spike Lee. **See Film Choice**

1.10am Sign Zone: Countryfile. Charlotte Smith visits a Cornish farm (r) (SL) **2.05** Wrexham: Hollywood or Bust! A journey through the history of Wrexham AFC (r) (SL) **2.35-3.35** Turkey: Empire of Erdogan. First in a two-part documentary (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team visit Newcastle racecourse, where a gruesome collection makes a small fortune at auction (r) **3.00** Tenable. A team of family and friends take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes **5.00** The Chase. Quiz hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Coronation Street (8pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Caleb celebrates as he finally get access to Kim's bank accounts on her laptop, and Wendy and Liam get closer

8.00 Coronation Street Paul is given a glimmer of hope when he reads about a new treatment for MND on the internet. Faye admits to feeling trapped by Craig, and Rita suggests that Gemma and Chesney have a joint stag and hen party

9.00 Maryland New series. Sisters Becca and Rosaline are living worlds apart in Manchester and London, but receive the worst news imaginable about their mother Mary. Drama starring Suranne Jones and Eve Best. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 The 1% Club Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants in every show having a chance of winning up to £100,000 (r)

11.40 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r)

1.20am Teleshopping **3.00** Maryland. Drama starring Suranne Jones and Eve Best (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Save Money: Good Diet. Sian investigates the trend for food with added protein (r) (SL) **5.35** James Martin's French Adventure (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Vick Hope is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. The Garners and the Rodriguezes revisit previous clients. Last in the series (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Sara Damergi goes house-hunting in Oliva, in Spain's Valencia region **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A family from Manchester transform a hamlet in France, (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer becomes a fisherman to repay a debt (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Felix receives a warning (r)



My Name Is Reeva (11.05pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country Graham and Sarah turn their attention to the garden, going on the hunt for trees and shrubs that would improve the backdrop to their lake and restoring an old bridge over a stream (6/7)

9.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics The air ambulance is dispatched to two road collisions, while on the west bank of Loch Lomond, a minibus has collided with a car. In South Ayrshire, an 86-year-old is struggling to breathe after a high-speed crash

10.00 Depp v Heard As hostility to Amber Heard grows on social media, the trial reaches one of its most violent and disturbing moments. A confrontation between Depp and Heard in Australia results in Depp losing part of his finger (2/3)

11.05 My Name Is Reeva New series. Documentary about Reeva Steenkamp, who was brutally murdered by her Paralympian boyfriend Oscar Pistorius on Valentine's Day 2013 (1/3)

12.05am Taskmaster (r) (SL) **1.05** 999: On the Front Line (r) **2.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **2.45** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Vilnius (r) **3.15** Grand Designs (r) (SL) **4.10** The Dog House (r) (SL) **5.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **5.15** Moneybags. Quiz series (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Eden pretends that Cash proposed to her when he was drunk (r) **2.15 FILM Mystery 101: Dead Talk (PG, TVM, 2019)** Professor Amy Winslow heads to Seattle to give a lecture, and winds up investigating the death of a tech genius. Thriller starring Jill Wagner **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. New series. The presenter takes on antiques experts and auctioneers **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Couples' Therapy take on the experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Jay's Virtual Quiz take on the trivia experts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Police Interceptors (8pm)

7.00 Traffic Cops Karl Jackson is alerted to a possible disqualified driver when a passing car is flagged up by an automatic number plate recognition camera (8/11) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Police Interceptors In one of the fastest pursuits in interceptor history, units mobilise to stop a 185mph superbike, and the last resort is for tactical contact between an advanced driver's police car and the motorbike

9.00 Police: Suspect No 1 Detectives investigate when a man is found badly beaten at the side of the road. Two officers start hunting through images from that night to see if they can see anyone who may have been with the victim (3/6)

10.00 Ambulance: Code Red Midlands Air Ambulance team are sent to save a tree surgeon who impaled himself after falling onto metal railings. Elsewhere, a motorcyclist is thrown from his bike and has to cross three lanes of traffic (r)

11.05 999: Critical Condition A man is rushed in with some of the worst facial injuries the team have ever seen, a woman has been badly injured in a road accident, and another has fallen in a care home (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.45** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.00** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.25** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.35** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.40** Thomas **5.55** Peppa Pig

Monday 22 | Primetime digital guide



Moonlight
Alex R Hibberts and Mahershala Ali star in the Oscar-winning drama
BBC3, 9.45pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 David Bull The biggest stories to start the day
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides viewers through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on some of the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's biggest global events
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the topics everybody is talking about
10.00 First Edition An energetic look at tomorrow's news
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (7/7)
8.00 The Agency: Unfiltered New series. Reality series which offers a rare glimpse into influencer culture (1/6)
8.30 The Agency: Unfiltered Abbie gets nervous about her big announcement (2/6)
9.00 I Kissed a Boy Dannii shakes things up by welcoming three single men into the masseria, to see if some of the couples who have matched up are as devoted as they appear (4/8)
9.45 FILM Moonlight (15, 2016) A young African-American man grapples with his identity while experiencing the everyday struggles of childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Drama starring Mahershala Ali
11.30 Fleabag Claire organises her own birthday party (3/6)
11.55-12.25am Fleabag Claire takes Fleabag to a retreat (4/6)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Railways: The Making of a Nation Liz McIvor presents a documentary examining excursion trains, which became popular from the 1840s onwards (3/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam The development of the steamship (5/6)
8.00 Italy's Invisible Cities Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott explore Venice (2/3)
9.00 Saving Venice Exploring The impact of climate change on the Italian city. **See Viewing Guide**
10.30 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway Drama unfolds in the aftermath of the news that the Elizabeth Line has been delayed (2/2)
11.30-12.30am Building Britain's Biggest Nuclear Power Station The team creates an extensive flood defence system (2/2)

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY Stephanie sets out to restore the chateau's greenhouse, which has been damaged in a storm (9/15)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud meets a couple who plan to build a glass-fronted house on a crumbling clifftop in Gwynedd, inspired by the villas of California
9.00 Car S.O.S Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend are taking on a 1984 Opel Manta GTE owned by a former amateur rally driver (3/10)
10.00 Inside Rolls-Royce Behind the scenes at the renowned car manufacturer's Goodwood factory
11.00-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E A 51-year-old is brought in after coming off his bike and doctors are concerned he may have suffered damage to his spine

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Bill tries to arrange a truce with Marnie, but the vengeful necromancer refuses to compromise. Meanwhile, the ghost haunting Arlene and Terry's baby takes an interest in Lafayette and Jason is torn (8/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Tywin counsels the king, Daenerys exchanges gifts with a slave lord outside Yunkai, Melisandre reveals a secret to Gendry, and Brienne faces a formidable foe at Harrenhal (7/10) (R)
9.00 Succession Another momentous day for the Roy siblings. Starring Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook . **See Viewing Guide** (9/10)
10.25 Billions Wendy makes a decision that adds further conflict to her relationship with Chuck (6/12) (R)
11.30-12.35am Billions (7/12) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm The Lady and the Dale The rise and fall of automobile executive Liz Carmichael (1/4) (R)
7.55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed Oliver Stone's documentary exploring the Kennedy assassination (1/4) (R)
9.00 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary in which former diplomat Jan Stocklassa investigates the assassination of prime minister of Sweden Olof Palme in 1986 (2/4) (R)
10.00 Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King The rise and fall of the former Spanish King Juan Carlos I (1/4) (R)
11.00 Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King Continuing the story (2/4) (R)
12.00-1.50am FILM Who Killed the KLF? (15, 2021) The rise and fall of the provocative music duo in the 1980s and 1990s

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Jonah tries to help Mateo avoid claiming compensation when he is injured **7.30 Superstore** Garrett and Cheyenne take advantage of an employee amnesty **8.00 Bob's Burgers** **8.30 Bob's Burgers** **9.00 Family Guy** **9.30 Family Guy** **10.00 Plebs: Soldiers of Rome (12, 2022)** Feature-length conclusion to the sitcom starring Tom Rosenthal **11.50-12.20am Family Guy**

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Heartbeat Maggie falls for a handsome new locum, Andy's bravery reconciles him with Gina, and Greengrass's bike hire business turns out to be flawed **8.00 Endeavour** Morse meets his intellectual match when a serial killer haunting the streets of Oxford keeps himself one step ahead of the law and leaves cryptic messages to goad the police (2/5) **10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood** The psychologist investigates a possible honour killing (1&2/8)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.15pm FILM Licence to Kill (15, 1989) James Bond plans revenge on a ruthless drug baron who maimed his friend, but is forced to act without the support of MI6. Spy thriller starring Timothy Dalton **9.00 No Room for Error** New series. Unrivalled behind-the-scenes access to the riders who take on the Isle of Man TT races **10.00-11.05pm FILM Assassins (15, 1995)** Thriller Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas, Julianne Moore and Anatoly Davydov

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Scott tells Felix they must postpone the opening of the Youth Centre, and Cindy gets a surprise on her doorstep **7.30 The Big Bang Theory** Penny agrees to a date with Leonard **8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht** Paget's patience runs out **9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox** The famous faces attempt arrow breaking (5/8) **10.00 Made in Chelsea** Imogen decides to apologise to Willow **11.05-12.10am Gogglebox**

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games With Samantha Womack, Rory Reid, Anne Diamond and James Acaster taking part **7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games** Trivia-based games **8.20 Room 101** Frank Skinner hosts **9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You** With Mel Giedroyc, Richard Osman and Sonia Sodha **10.00 QI XL** With Deirdre O'Kane, Richard Osman and David Mitchell **11.00 Live at the Apollo** **12.00-12.40am Mock the Week**

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Howard's underpants go missing **7.20 Last of the Summer Wine** The ladies inadvertently take a mystery tour. Starring Thora Hird **8.00 Jonathan Creek** Alan Davies' consulting detective returns for another festive mystery **10.00 New Tricks** Brian helps Esther's friend find her missing brother. With Alun Armstrong **11.20-1.20am Silent Witness** Feature length episode. Sam investigates a possible cover-up

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain Sunderland Point (3/13) **7.30 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain** A ironworks in Scotland (4/13) **8.00 How To Build A Motor Car** See how a 21st century electric London Taxi is made **9.00 Abandoned Engineering** Documentary exploring Haludovo Palace Hotel in Croatia **10.00 Bangers and Cash** (2/10) **11.00 Abandoned Engineering** **12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys** (4/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.50pm Grand Tours of Scotland Sports-based tourism (2/6) **7.30 Australia in Colour** (1/4) **8.35 WWII in Color: Road to Victory** The German army prepares to capture the British army trapped at Dunkirk **9.45 Three Days in June: The Story of the D-Day Forecast** How the launch of D-Day was determined by a remote station in Ireland **10.55 Australia in Colour** (1/4) **12.00-1.15am WWII in Color: Road to Victory**

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Andre Rieu: Live in Brazil A performance by the violinist in his first-ever concert in Sao Paulo, with the Johann Strauss Orchestra **9.00 Discovering Dance on Film** A celebration of extraordinary choreographed moments in a countdown of 25 of the most memorable dances in history **10.30-12.30am FILM The Lost Leonardo (15, 2021)** Documentary exploring the case of the missing Salvator Mundi, the first painting by Leonardo da Vinci

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire **8.00 Deep Water Salvage** Bundles of cedar wood tree trunks are smashed apart, releasing logs **9.00 Secret Societies: In the Shadows** The Skull And Bones senior secret student society **10.00 Greatest Heists with Pierce Brosnan** The Lufthansa heist at JFK International Airport **11.00 Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman** (4/8) **12.00-1.00am Looting History** A dealers world crumbles (7/8)

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 A group of gods threatens to destroy Earth **8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles** The team investigates when a Navy reservist is stabbed and his lab is ransacked **9.00 Bel-Air** Ashley's favourite teacher is fired (3/10) **10.00 Last King of the Cross** Fact-based Australian crime drama starring Lincoln Younes (1/10) **11.00 Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Part 1** Rob and Romesh try their hand at weightlifting (5/7) **12.00-1.00am The Force**

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A Concorde crash in July 2000 **8.00 Unknown Waters with Jeremy Wade** Jeremy travels the length of Kenya in search of the giant Nile perch (3/3) **9.00 Air Crash Investigation** Investigating a 1978 accident over San Diego, California **10.00 Car S.O.S** Porsche 911 Targa **11.00 Anne Frank: The Nazi Capture** A chilling story **12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation** Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides **8.00 Gold Divers** **9.00 Wheeler Dealers** Car dealer Mike Brewer is on a mission to find and restore iconic cars **10.00 Roadworthy Rescues** Derek needs help with a 1928 Ford Model **11.00 Naked and Afraid XL** **12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle**

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.30 Young Rock (7/13) **8.00 The Conners** New series **8.30 The Office (US)** **9.00 Barry** (6/8) **9.40 The Righteous Gemstones** **10.20 Bill Maher: Live From Oklahoma** A stand-up show **11.35-12.25am And Just Like That** Starring Sarah Jessica Parker (5/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four episodes **9.00 Impractical Jokers** **10.00 Impractical Jokers** **10.30 Impractical Jokers** **11.00 Reno 911!** A ban on moustaches causes panic **11.30 Reno 911!** With Kenny Rogers **12.00-1.00am Rhod Gilbert's Growing Pains** Teenage years

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Open All Hours **7.40 Dad's Army** **8.20 Dad's Army** **9.00 dinnerladies** **9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV** **10.20 Live at the Apollo** **11.25 Mrs Brown's Boys** **12.00-12.35am Absolutely Fabulous** Elton John guest stars

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Ambulance Australia New series. A peek behind the scenes **8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build Ireland** **9.00 24 Hours in A&E** **10.00 999 Rescue Squad** **11.00-12.00am Louis Theroux: Dark States — Murder in Milwaukee** Documentary

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

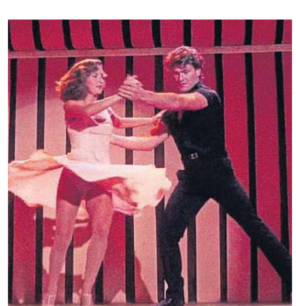
7.00pm Person of Interest (7/13) **8.00 Father Brown** (13/15) **9.00 Death in Paradise** A coffee plantation owner is shot dead (4/8) **10.00 Father Brown** (14/15) **11.00 Without a Trace** **12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators** Mystery with Mark Benton (3/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

7.00pm Live MNF: Newcastle United v Leicester City (Kick-off **8.00**). The Premier League match from St James' Park, as both teams play their penultimate match of the season. Newcastle have beaten the Foxes twice this term, prevailing 3-0 in the reverse fixture on Boxing Day, and winning 2-0 here in the Carabao Cup **11.00pm-12.00m't Sky Sports News** Round-up of the sports news **2.00-4.30am Live NBA Basketball** Coverage of a play-off match

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Live MNF: Newcastle United v Leicester City (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the Premier League match from St James' Park, as both teams play their penultimate match of the season. Newcastle have beaten the Foxes twice this term, and will be confident of another victory here **11.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits** Highlights from the Saturday morning football show **11.30-12.00m't Premier League Icons** A profile of Yaya Toure



The Eighties classic Dirty Dancing features in Discovering Dance on Film (Sky Arts, 9pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.15pm T20 Blast Cricket Highlights of Worcestershire Rapids v Sussex Sharks in the 2018 final at Edgbaston **6.15 T20 Blast 2019 Final Highlights** Worcestershire Rapids v Essex Eagles in the 2019 final at Edgbaston in Birmingham **10.15 T20 Blast Cricket** Birmingham Bears v Lancashire Lightning in the 2014 final **11.50-12.05am Best of T20 Blast Finals Day** A look back at some of the best ever T20 Blast finals

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

5.30pm Live Serie A: AS Roma v Salernitana Coverage from Stadio Olimpico (Kick-off **5.30**) **7.30 Live Serie A: Empoli v Juventus** From Stadio comuale Carlo Castellani (Kick-off **7.45**) **9.45 BT Sport Goals Reload** **10.15 What I Wore** **10.30 ESPN FC Presents: Gab & Juls** The latest news and gossip **11.00pm-12.00m't WWE Raw Highlights** Wrestling action **1.00-4.15am Live: WWE Monday Night Raw** Wrestling coverage

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.00pm Badminton Action from the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals **9.00 Fishing: On the Bank** Frank McAvennie, Paul Parker, Paul Walsh and Tony Gale compete against each other **10.00 PSA Squash** **11.00 European Rally Championship Highlights** **11.30-3.00am Live MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates v Texas Rangers** (Start-time **11.35**) Coverage from PNC Park

Monday 22

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

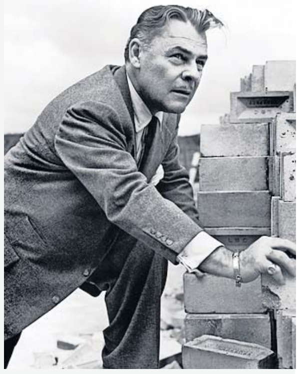
11.00am Hatari! (U, 1962) Comedy adventure starring John Wayne and Red Buttons **2.10pm Comanche Station (PG, 1960)** Western starring Randolph Scott and Nancy Gates, Claude Akins **3.45 Tora! Tora! Tora! (U, 1970)** Second World War drama starring Martin Balsam **6.35 Star Trek (12, 2009)** Sci-fi adventure starring Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto **9.00 Independence Day (12, 1996)** Sci-fi adventure starring Will Smith and Bill Pullman **11.50-1.55am The Craft (15, 1996)** Horror starring Robin Tunney and Fairuza Balk

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Penny Paradise (U, 1938) Comedy with Edmund Gwenn and Betty Driver **7.30 Jimmy Edwards at the Tivoli** A 1966 performance **8.20 Cloak Without Dagger (U, 1956)** Thriller with Philip Friend and Mary Mackenzie **9.40 Kill Her Gently (PG, 1957)** Thriller starring Griffith Jones and Maureen Connell **11.10 I Believe In You (PG, 1952)** Drama starring Cecil Parker and Celia Johnson **12.55pm Rogue's Yarn (U, 1957)** Drama starring Nicole Maurey and Derek Bond **2.30 Crown Court 3.00 Fanny (U, 1961)** Drama starring Leslie Caron **5.40 Look at Life 6.00 The Footage Detectives 7.00 The Champions 8.00 The Main Chance 9.00 Quatermass 2 (PG, 1957)** Hammer sci-fi horror sequel starring Brian Donlevy **10.45 Secret Army 11.50-12.20am Crown Court**

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Road Less Travelled (PG, 2018) Drama starring Eric Mabius **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 The Gourmet Detective (PG, 2015)** Murder mystery starring Dylan Neal **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 The Novel Murders: Garage Sale Mystery VI (PG, 2016)** Whodunit starring Steve Bacic and Eva Bourne **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Killer Cove (PG, 2018)** Thriller starring Cathy Baron **4.50 GREAT! Movie News 5.00 The Wedding Stalker (PG, 2017)** Thriller with Fiona Vroom and Heather Morris **6.50 GREAT! Movie News 7.00 The Site of Murder: An Emma Fielding Mystery (PG, 2017)** Whodunit starring Courtney Thorne-Smith, James Tupper and Tess Atkins **8.50 GREAT! Movie News**



Sci-fi horror Quatermass 2 (Talking Pictures TV, 9pm)

9.00 The Take (15, 2016) Action thriller starring Idris Elba and Richard Madden **10.50-1.05am Manhattan Night (15, 2016)** Thriller starring Adrien Brody and Yvonne Strahovski

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors 7.10 Off Set 7.25 The Desperate Hours (PG, 1955) Thriller starring Humphrey Bogart, Fredric March and Martha Scott **9.45 Cattle King (U, 1963)** Western starring Robert Taylor and Joan Caulfield **11.35 Murder Ahoy (U, 1964)** Agatha Christie mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **1.30pm Cavalry Scout (U, 1951)** Western starring Rod Cameron and Audrey Long **3.10 Ice Station Zebra (U, 1968)** Arctic adventure starring Rock Hudson **6.15 Law of the Panhandle (PG, 1950)** Western starring Johnny Mack Brown, Jane Adams and Riley Hill **7.30 Wagons West (U, 1952)** Western starring Rod Cameron and Frank Ferguson **9.00 Fire Down Below (18, 1997)** Adventure with Steven Seagal, Kris Kristofferson and Harry Dean Stanton **11.15-1.15am Hallowe'en 5: The Revenge of Michael Myers (18, 1989)** Horror starring Donald Pleasence

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.20pm The Voyagers (PG, 2022) Fantasy adventure starring Matteo Schiavone **2.25 Alone Together (15, 2022)** Romantic drama starring Katie Holmes **4.20 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **6.10 Confess, Fletch (15, 2022)** Comedy thriller with Jon Hamm and Roy Wood Jr **8.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert **10.05-12.05am Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. Philip Glenister picks tracks **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders **3.00** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti The life of the Hungarian composer Gyorgy Ligeti **1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Hannah French presents a recital from London's Wigmore Hall. Sam Perkin (*Freakshow*); Beethoven (Allegretto in B flat, WoO 39) and Mendelssohn (Piano Trio No 2 in C minor) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Ian Skelly begins a week of music from Denmark and Sweden. Mozart (*Overture to Lucio Silla*); Debussy (*Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*); Camille Pépin (*Les Eaux célestes*); Stravinsky (*The Rite of Spring*) and Beethoven (Symphony No 8 in F, Op 93) **4.30 New Generation Artists** The cellist Anastasia Kobekina plays Bach's Suite No 3 in C **5.00 In Tune** Sean Rafferty is joined by the King's Singers **7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** Philippe Herreweghe conducts the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and Collegium Vocale Ghent. Mozart (Symphony No.41 in C, K. 551 and Mass in C minor, K 427) **9.00 Ultimate Calm** Musical matters of the heart **10.00 Music Matters** Exploring the art of lyric writing (r) **10.45 The Essay: Death in Trieste** The murder of the art historian Johann Winckelmann **11.00 Night Tracks 12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

Taking Issues with Shakespeare
Radio 4, 1.45pm

The University of Oxford English professor Emma Smith, *right*, is a lively and erudite voice on *In Our Time*. In this programme, airing across the week, she explores how Shakespeare might help us to resolve challenging contemporary issues. Her guests include Michael Gove, on the "levelling up" agenda and *King Lear*, and Will Self, on toxic masculinity and *Hamlet*. In this first episode



she discusses with the former prime minister Gordon Brown and the chairwoman of the Royal Shakespeare Company Shriti Vadera how the Bard might face the challenges of populism. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 9.00 Start the Week 9.45 Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** Written by Naoíse Mac Sweeney (1/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Blood on the Dance Floor** The talks are put at risk **11.30 Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley** (10/10) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 You and Yours 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Taking Issue with Shakespeare** New series. Whether the works of the Bard can resolve contemporary issues. **See Choice** (1/5) **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 This Cultural Life** (r) **3.00 Round Britain Quiz 3.30 The Food Programme** (r) **4.00 Does the Irish Republic Want Reunification? 4.30 The Digital Human** New series. Social-media language **5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute** (8/8) **7.00 The Archers** Helen begins to fear the worst **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 Faith on the Factory Floor, Flock in a Hard Hat** Examining the role of the British Industrial Mission in a changing world of work **8.30 Crossing Continents** (r) **9.00 Supersenses** (5/5) (r) **9.30 Start the Week** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (6/10) **11.00 The Patch** (r) **11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** (1/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Newcastle United v Leicester City (Kick-off **8.00**) **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken. News stories **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Round the Horne **8.30** Dry Slopes **9.00** The Write Stuff **9.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **10.00** The Prisoner **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** In My Mind's Eye **12.15pm** Dead Cert **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **1.00** Round the Horne **1.30** Dry Slopes **2.00** The Write Stuff **2.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **3.00** The Prisoner **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** In My Mind's Eye **5.15** Dead Cert **5.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **6.00** Round the Horne **6.30** Dry Slopes **7.00** The Write Stuff. With John O'Farrell and Alex Clark **7.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet. The couple hire a builder **8.00** Joan Collins: A Life in Lipstick. The actress discusses her career **9.00** Mastertapes. The making of Richard Thompson's *Rumour and Sigh* **9.30** Ruth Rendell Stories **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson **10.00** Comedy Club: Just a Minute **10.30** And Now in Colour **11.00** The News Quiz **11.30** The Skivers

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** CrowdScience **10.00** News **10.06** The History Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Conversation **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** CrowdScience **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.06** From Our Own Correspondent **8.30** Discovery **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Conversation **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The History Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Documentary: The Ballad of Beirut **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** In the Studio

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Tom Robinson **9.00** Amy Lamé **12.00** Pulp: In Their Own Words. The story of the band told through interviews from the BBC archives **1.00am** Peel Acres

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Tuesday 23 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Ben Fogle and the Buried City

Channel 5, 9pm

In 1995 a volcano on the British overseas territory of Montserrat erupted. Nineteen people were killed and a large swathe of this tiny paradisal haven — measuring about ten by seven miles — was rendered uninhabitable. Enter Ben Fogle, *right*, a man more used to visiting people living in remote locations but who now casts his eye over a place made desolate by the departure of human life. In this film he is given access to the exclusion zone, the abandoned parts of the island, where Plymouth, the once bustling capital, now lies buried under tonnes of volcanic material. The sight of three-storey buildings poking out of the ground show why this place has been called the Caribbean Pompeii. One of his guides is Scriber, a charismatic local man who remembers the heyday of Plymouth and brings an emotional as well as informed perspective. He also meets Jumblack, a man who lives alone in the exclusion zone, growing vegetables and trapping wild animals for food. Always a warm and empathetic presenter, Fogle teases out plenty of stories of horror and heroism, but his subjects are also vivid and articulate guides. They talk of the "hell" of the disaster, the story of someone being "cooked" in the pyroclastic flow and the way that the volcano continues to "huff and puff like a wolf". About 5,000 people remain — there were 12,000 before the eruption, and towards the close Fogle is keen to tell more upbeat narratives. These include attempts to revive the island's fortunes by its remaining inhabitants through mining, harnessing geothermal energy and even volcano tourism. Ben Dowell



Victim/Suspect

Netflix

"I was raped and they told me that I lied about it," are chilling words. And they form a depressingly familiar pattern in this shocking film. Throughout a four-year investigation, the journalist Rae de Leon has identified scores of cases in the US in which rape and sexual assault victims are treated as suspects. Disturbing footage in police interrogation rooms shows officers talking to people lodging such claims and deploying cross-examination techniques usually reserved for crime suspects. Some victims reluctantly give in, but then risk being charged with false reporting. **BD**

Maryland

ITV1, 9pm

Becca (Suranne Jones) and Rosaline (Eve Best) face up to further revelations about their late mother Mary, who had been found dead on an Isle of Man beach. Not only do they have to digest the fact that she had been living a secret life, but the autopsy suggests that her death may not have been entirely accidental. Aided by an excellent ensemble, the writer Anne Marie O'Connor's drama is extraordinarily adept at capturing the painful rhythms of family strife, from the sisterly bickering to the chasms of pain and secrecy that require disinterring. Concludes tomorrow. **BD**

Hunting for Klaus Barbie

PBS America, 9.40pm

On July 4, 1987, Klaus Barbie was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity. He was estimated to have been responsible for the torture and murder of thousands, but how did the former Gestapo chief evade justice for decades? And was he employed by US and West German spy agencies? Drawing on the historian Peter Hammerschmidt's work, this film also examines how he was brought to justice. Located in Bolivia in 1971, he was extradited to France a decade later. He died in 1991, four years into his life sentence. **BD**

Inside Kabul

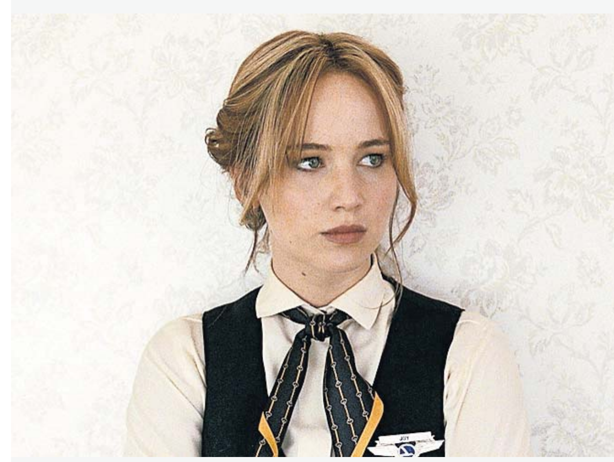
BBC4, 10pm

When the Taliban returned to power in 2021, the lives of two young Afghani women, Raha and Marwa, changed overnight. In this moving and short Storyville film they recount their experiences via phone voice notes. We never see their faces, but the action is accompanied by simple animations, allowing us to focus on their powerful words. Raha, who begins by talking about the time that Taliban men visited her family home, chose to stay in the country, while Marwa fled with her husband and made her way to a refugee camp in Abu Dhabi, and — she hopes — on to Europe. **BD**

Films of the day

Vice (15, 2018)
BBC2, 11.15pm

The weight gain of the lead actor, Christian Bale, and the pitiless evisceration of the film's subject are the obvious talking points that emerge from this effervescent pop biography of the former US vice-president Dick Cheney. Often unrecognisable beneath his embonpoint (he reportedly put on 40lb) and several subtle layers of latex, especially for the older years, Bale delivers a captivating portrait that offers initial notes of sympathy (Cheney as a guileless White House intern in 1968, giddy after meeting Nixon) before plunging into something much darker and more megalomaniacal. The genius of Bale's performance is that he never overplays his hand or crudely delineates Cheney's drift to the dark side. It's also very funny. (127min) **Kevin Maher**



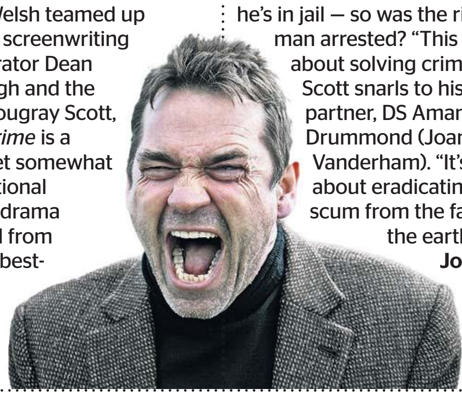
Joy (12, 2015)
Film4, 1.10am

Jennifer Lawrence plays Joy Mangano, *above*, a feisty single mother turned entrepreneur, in David O Russell's somewhat unwieldy comic film. Her drab household is filled with ugly wallpaper and bloodsucking dependants, and Joy supports everyone economically and emotionally until exhaustion leaves her collapsed on the shagpile stairs. As if by magic the self-wringing Miracle Mop appears in a cough-mixture-fuelled dream. In America, the land of opportunity, Mangano's invention leads to great things, including a slot selling the product live on the QVC home-shopping channel. The gentle humour and dishcloths-to-riches story arc is entertaining, but the stakes are rather low. (121min) **Kate Muir**

Catch up

Crime
ITVX

For his first foray into TV drama the Scottish novelist Irvine Welsh teamed up with his screenwriting collaborator Dean Cavanagh and the actor Dougray Scott, *right*. *Crime* is a gritty yet somewhat conventional six-part drama adapted from Welsh's best-selling 2008 novel about a traumatised detective investigating the disappearance of a schoolgirl while battling his demons. Filmed in Edinburgh and Glasgow, it stars Scott as Detective Inspector Ray Lennox, who is convinced that the girl has been abducted by a paedophile murderer known as Mr Confectioner. The snag is, he's in jail — so was the right man arrested? "This is nae about solving crimes," Scott snarls to his new partner, DS Amanda Drummond (Joanna Vanderham). "It's about eradicating scum from the face of the earth." **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 12.35-12.40am** Weather for the Week Ahead. A look ahead to the latest forecast
• **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 1.45pm** First Minister's Questions. Mark Drakeford answers questions from the Senedd **2.45** Eggheads (r) **3.15** Planet Earth: A Tale of Three Bears (r) **3.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain (r) **4.00** Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands (r) **5.00-6.00pm** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr (r)
• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Spotlight. Conor Spackman reports on unsolved gun murders in Belfast **11.10** Rain Dogs. Selby, Gloria and Lenny go on a road trip in search of Costello and Iris **11.40** Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction (r) **12.40am** Question of Sport (r) **1.10-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** River City (r)
• **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 8.00pm** Wales This Week: The Shape of Wales. The effects climate change is having on Welsh coastlines **8.30-9.00pm** Welsh Lives. Adeola Dewis visits the seaside town of Barry Island (r)
• **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight. Current affairs show **11.05** DNA Journey (r) **12.15-3.00am** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
• **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Inside the Zoo. A project to save Scotland's wildcats (r) **8.00** Paramedics on Scene. A biker's tour of Scotland is cut short due to a broken rib (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Aberdeen '83: Once in a Lifetime (r) **11.00** David Wilson's Crime Files: Cold Cases (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Raiders of the Lost Archive (r)
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **12.00** News **12.05pm** Cegin Bryn: Yn Ffrainc (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **1.30** Ffermio (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Priodas Pum Mil (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Sali Mali (r) **4.05** Jamborî (r) **4.15** Sam Tân (r) **4.25** Sion y Chef (r) **4.40** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Mwy o Stwnsh Sadwrn **5.25** Dennis a Dannedd (r) **5.40** Bwystfil (r) **5.50** Siwrne Ni (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Y Sioe Fwyd (r) **6.30** Ffilmiau Ddoe (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Ffion tries to reestablish Cwmderi's women's rugby team and Sion tries to justify his behaviour **8.25** Rownd a Rownd. An unexpected celeb arrives in Glanrafod **8.55** News **9.00** Ffit Cymru. The leaders share their final weightloss transformation **10.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Highlights of stage 16 **10.45** Blacowt **11.40-12.15** Goreuon Gwesty Aduniad (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Tuesday 23

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Scarlett and Ollie have fun pulling pranks as the Mad Badgers **2.15** Money for Nothing. JJ Chalmers rescues a birdcage and a suitcase from the tip (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. A retired couple from Essex are looking for a home by the coast **3.45** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Coverage of the famous horticultural event **4.30** The Repair Shop. Items include a loyal teddy and a set of vintage golf clubs (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather


The final Rain Dogs (10.40pm)

7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders Stacey faces the judgemental parents at school but it is the reactions at home she is most worried about

8.00 Waterloo Road Kelly Jo makes a revelation, causing problems for Nicky and her family and Amy finds herself infatuated with a colleague. Kim's day goes from bad to worse after a conversation between her and Lindon is overheard (2/7)

9.00 MasterChef The semi-finals kick off with a visit to Gloucestershire's Fire Service College. Cooking in teams for the first time, the hopefuls have three and a half hours to serve a feast for 120 of the emergency responders and trainers

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

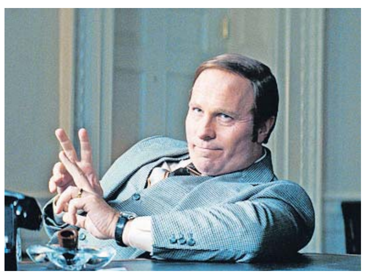
10.40 Rain Dogs Selby, Gloria and Lenny go on a road trip (8/8)

11.05 Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction The Busted bassist opens up about his experiences battling drug and alcohol addiction and his daily struggle to stay clean and sober. He speaks on the constant fear of relapse and the pressure it puts on his family. (r)

12.05am Question of Sport. Paddy McGuinness hosts the quiz show, with guest panellists Tammy Beaumont, Robbie Hunter-Paul, Maisie Summers-Newton and Fabrice Muamba. (r) **12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead **12.40** BBC News

BBC2

6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Coast to Coast Food Festival (r) (SL) **8.30** Coastal Defenders (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. The Lake District (r) **3.15** Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. The wildlife of the east Asian country (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The semi-finalists upgrade luxury holiday lodges (r) **5.15** Flog It! From Somerset (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Mehreen Baig, Clare Balding, Jamie Laing and Mike Wozniak (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels by train from Liverpool to Blackpool


Christian Bale in Vice (11.15pm)

7.00 Digging for Britain Alice Roberts visits more archaeological digs around the country, finding out about discoveries that shed new light on British history during the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Tudor eras (4/6) (r)

8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show The BBC gardening team present the sights and sounds of the famous events, with highlights of the gardens and tips for amateur horticulturists

9.00 Forensics: The Real CSI When an armed gang of jewellery thieves robs £300,000 worth of gold from a Birmingham jewellery store, police need to use forensic evidence to track down the gold (2/4)

10.00 Colin from Accounts Ashley and Gordon find their relationship tested (7/8)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events, with Kirsty Wark

11.15 FILM Vice (15, 2018) The story of Dick Cheney, an unassuming bureaucratic Washington insider who quietly wielded immense power as vice president to George W Bush, reshaping America and the globe in the ways that are still felt today. Biographical drama starring Christian Bale and Amy Adams. **See Film Choice**

1.20am Sign Zone: Murder in the Pacific. The sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior* (r) (SL) **2.05** MasterChef (r) (SL) **3.05-4.05** MasterChef (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. More celebrity interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team head to Aerospace Bristol (r) **3.00** Tenable. A team of community nurses play to take home a big cash prize by answering a series of top 10 list questions. Hosted by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather


Stockard Channing stars (9pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Guilt weighs heavy on Wendy, while Bob struggles to cope with his feelings after his near-kiss with Bernice

8.00 Love Your Garden In Enfield, Hertfordshire, Alan Titchmarsh and his team transform a garden for a woman who has devoted her life to combatting knife crime after the death of her son who was murdered when he was just 17-years-old

9.00 Maryland Becca and Rosaline struggle to come to terms with the shocking revelations about their mother's past, and they decide to go searching for more answers. Rosaline decides to try and connect with her father. **See Viewing Guide** (2/3)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 FILM Fast & Furious 5 (12, 2011) Criminal Dominic Toretto is broken out of prison by his partners in crime and together they flee to South America. They begin assembling a gang of crooks to carry out a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is in the country and hot on their trail. Action adventure sequel starring Vin Diesel

12.55am Teleshopping **3.00** Maryland. The sisters struggle to come to terms with the recent revelations about their mother (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Bling. Mr Freeze has a shock for a customer who brings in her engagement ring to sell (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. With Vick Hope **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A retired bricklayer and wife plan to lay down new roots in Alicante (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Craig Rowe meets a couple from Leicestershire are looking for a home in France **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. The owners of a hamlet wake up to find it has flooded (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer and Marge reveal how they ended up being miserable parents (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Cindy receives a surprise (r)


The Greatest Auction (8pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 The Greatest Auction The bidders compete for two vintage Hermès handbags and a print by street artist Invader sells for 100 times what the seller paid for it. A 1970s illuminated furniture shop sign sells on the flip of a coin

9.00 Grand Designs: The Streets A man from Bicester takes on a self-build project in Graven Hill with the help of his dad, but the stress ramps up when the five-tonne car lift he ordered from China doesn't fit into the hole in the basement

10.00 Depp v Heard The trial reaches its climax when the jury hear allegations that Johnny kicked Amber down the stairs but testimony from one of Johnny's exes, Kate Moss, undermines the claims. Last in the series

11.05 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on programmes including *Love Is Blind, Starstruck, Cheaters, Celebrity Help! My House Is Haunted* and *Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad*. Plus, an appraisal of BBC News (r)

12.05am Gogglebox (r) (SL) **1.05** My Name Is Reeva **2.00** The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan (r) **2.55** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Dublin (r) **3.25** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **4.15** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **5.10** Moneybags. Quiz series (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Mali rushes to support Rose after hearing that Xander is in hospital (r) **2.15** FILM **My Daughter's Secret (PG, TVM, 2021)** Wanting to ensure she is accepted by a prestigious college, a student becomes involved in an admission scandal. Thriller starring Karis Cameron **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The presenter and antiques expert Rachel Holland go head to head **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. A team of chemists take part (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Members of two separate pub quiz teams join forces (r) **6.55** 5 News Update


Jane McDonald in Yorkshire (7pm)

7.00 Jane McDonald: My Yorkshire The singer explores the county, beginning in her home town of Wakefield and taking in the delights of the city and the surrounding towns (1/5) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet Peter Wright treats a farmer's Labrador that is struggling to walk after cutting itself badly. Elsewhere, Julian Norton operates on a chicken with an infected leg, and Robin Aojula rushes to the aid of a pregnant ewe

9.00 Ben Fogle and the Buried City Ben explores the Caribbean island of Montserrat's capital Plymouth, which is now a volcanic ash-covered, ghost town after a series of volcanic eruptions in the 1990s. **See Viewing Guide**

10.30 The Man Who Took Shannon Matthews The case of Michael Donovan, who abducted nine-year-old Shannon Matthews in 2008 and kept her in his flat for 24 days before she was found by police (r)

11.55 Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law (r)

12.50am Entertainment News on 5 **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** The Yorkshire Vet (r) **3.55** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.45** Wildlife SOS (r) **5.10** House Doctor **5.30** Milkshake!: Monkey's Amazing Adventures **5.40** Pip and Posy **5.45** Thomas & Friends

Tuesday 23 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat



Last of the Summer Wine
A double bill of the vintage comedy Drama, 6.40pm/7.20pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show Reports
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Monologues, stimulating debates and dedicated time for calls
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The presenter guides viewers through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with an hour of debate and interviews
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the latest hot topics and headlines
10.00 First Edition A look at tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored Discussion

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear Second-hand sports cars are put to the test during a road trip across Japan (3/6)
8.00 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Documentary following boxer Amir Khan and his family. In this episode, Amir's grudge match with Kell Brook is finally signed, and Faryal models bridalwear (1/6) (R)
8.30 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Amir comes face to face with long-time rival and opponent Kell Brook at a press conference (2/6)
9.00 The Apprentice Australia At the halfway stage of the series, clearing out another celebrity means Lord Sugar putting the candidates to work at a corporate clearance sale (8/16)
10.10 The Young Offenders (3/6)
10.45 The Young Offenders (4/6)
11.15-12.05am I Kissed a Boy (3/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Railways: The Making of a Nation How the railways enabled people to live farther from work (4/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam The invention of the steam turbine (6/6)
8.00 As Time Goes By (6/7)
8.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? Terry tracks his former girlfriends (5/13)
9.00 Expedition Volcano Part one of two. Exploring volcanos in the Democratic Republic of Congo
10.00 Inside Kabul: Storyville Animation about the experiences of two Afghan women after the Taliban's return to power. **See Viewing Guide**
10.30 Escape from Kabul Airport The inside story of the largest airlift in US history
11.45-12.45am Britain and the Sea David Dimbleby follows the trade routes of Scotland

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY A woman restores her old stable into a studio for her art weekends (10/15)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows a couple's project to transform a 1960s forester's lodge into a unique Japanese home
9.00 24 Hours in A&E Three boys are admitted for very different reasons, including a cyclist who arrives with head and neck injuries having been involved in a traffic accident (10/16)
10.00 Brain Surgeons: Between Life and Death Documentary following patients at the Neurological Centre in Southampton
11.05-12.10am 999: On the Front Line A young man has curvature of the spine, a high temperature, low blood pressure and a fast heart rate (10/10)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Sookie manages to reverse Eric's memory loss. Sam turns his anger on brutal alpha werewolf Marcus, and Terry takes Andy to their favourite childhood haunt for an intervention (10/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Daenerys meets the captains of the Second Sons mercenary company, Davos demands to see proof of Melisandre's power and there is a wedding in King's Landing (8/10) (R)
9.00 Gangs of London Sean and his family are forced to go into hiding. Meanwhile, Luan risks his life to rid himself of Mosi, and Floriana seizes an opportunity (8/9) (R)
10.05 Perry Mason The brothers' testimony is brought into question (4/8)
11.10-12.20am Treme (8/11) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm The Lady and the Dale The rise and fall of the automobile executive Liz Carmichael (2/4) (R)
7.55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed Oliver Stone's documentary exploring the Kennedy assassination (2/4) (R)
9.00 Dublin Narcos Documentary charting the rise in violence, drug addiction and organised crime in Dublin from the 1980s to today (1/3) (R)
10.00 Dublin Narcos Documentary charting the rise in violence, drug addiction and organised crime in Dublin from the 1980s to today (2/3) (R)
11.00 Dublin Narcos The rise in drug addiction and crime in Dublin (3/3) (R)
12.00-2.10am FILM Undefeated (12, 2011) Documentary following a high-school American football team

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Jeff leaves Cloud 9 to work at a rival shop **7.30 Superstore** The employees worry when their new district manager arrives **8.00 Bob's Burgers 8.30 Bob's Burgers 9.00 Hell's Kitchen** The three finalists create their own menus **10.00 Family Guy 10.35 Family Guy 11.00 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad! 12.00-12.30am American Dad!**

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Bernie reveals a hidden talent, while Phil Bellamy is babysitting Maggie Bolton's son Sam, but when he goes to feed the baby, Sam has gone missing **8.00 Midsomer Murders** A local boxer's successful world title bid stirs up hidden passions among the residents of Midsomer Morchard. Phil Daniels Guest stars **10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood** Tony is the last person to see a friend alive at a psychology convention (3&4/8)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm BattleBots Eight bots battle for a championship spot **8.00 The Motorbike Show** The history of motorcycle manufacturing company Triumph **9.00 No Room for Error** One competitor has a lucky escape from a fiery accident **10.00 An Audience with Billy Connolly** The comedian entertains a celebrity crowd **11.10-12.20am All Elite Wrestling: Rampage** Hard-hitting, high-flying wrestling action

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Darren decides to take matters into his own hands **7.30 The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon is placed in a difficult position **8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht** Adam critiques Parker's cabin etiquette, which sends Parker over the edge **9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox** Bonds form when the celebs take part in a cacao ceremony (6/8) **10.00 The Inbetweeners 10.35 The Inbetweeners 11.10-12.15am Naked Attraction**

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Trivia-based games **7.35 Richard Osman's House of Games** With Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor **8.20 Room 101** With Miranda Hart, Reggie Yates and John Craven **9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You** Jo Brand hosts an extended edition of the news quiz **10.00 QI XL** With guests Bill Bailey, Colin Lane and Desiree Burch **11.00 Meet the Richardsons 11.40-12.20am Would I Lie to You?**

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Wesley makes good use of his engineering background **7.20 Last of the Summer Wine** Billy Hardcastle, also known as the Hawk, gets a taste for adventure **8.00 Dalziel & Pascoe** The duo arrive to find a community divided **10.00 New Tricks** The team investigates the unsolved murder of the pornographer Jim Hockney **11.20-1.35am Silent Witness** Sam is called to examine the bodies recovered from a helicopter crash

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain In Sunderland (5/13) **7.30 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain** Visiting a forge in Sheffield (6/13) **8.00 Joanna Lumley's India** Joanna embarks on the final leg of her journey through India (3/3) **9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics** The restoration of a 1992 Vauxhall Nova Merit Plus (2/6) **10.00 Bangers and Cash** (4/10) **11.00 Abandoned Engineering 12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys** (6/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.50pm Grand Tours of Scotland From Loch Tay to Strathpeffer (4/6) **7.25 Australia in Colour** Exploring the unique conditions that turn Australia into a sports-mad nation **8.35 WWII in Color: Road to Victory** In 1939, a German U-boat fires its first torpedo **9.40 Hunting for Klaus Barbie** The story of Klaus Barbie, head of the Gestapo. **See Viewing Guide 10.55 Australia in Colour** (2/4) **12.00-1.10am WWII in Color: Road to Victory** Documentary

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Art of the Garden Jo Thompson's design for RHS Garden Rosemoor in Devon (3/6) **8.00 Andrea Bocelli: The Journey** The tenor goes on a spiritual pilgrimage around Italy (1/4) **9.00 FILM Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am (12, 2019)** A profile of the Nobel Prize-winning author **11.15-12.15am Art Traffickers: Treasures Stolen from the Tombs** Documentary examining the most sensational thefts of ancient masterpieces in history (1/4)

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire 8.00 Behind History New series. A look at key historical moments **9.00 Swamp People: Serpent Invasion** A quarry full of pythons **10.00 The Abyss: Rise & Fall of the Nazis** In 1945, it was unclear whether the Germans had broken with the Nazis (10/10) **11.00 Ancient Aliens** Investigating the possibility of direct human contact with extraterrestrial life **12.00-1.00am The Curse of Oak Island** Ancient ties to Italy

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 Vala unwittingly puts her life at risk **8.00 The Flash** Khione continues to figure out her powers (10/13) **9.00 Fantasy Island** A woman needs help deciding who she is going to marry (5/10) **10.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries** Andrew Flintoff takes part in a treasure hunt on the Thames (5/6) **11.00 S.W.A.T** An armoured truck heist ends in bloodshed **12.00-1.00am Brassic** The gang heads to Wales for a wedding (1/8)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A plane that crashed whilst flying Mexican officials, killing 16 people **8.00 UFOs: Investigating the Unknown** Stories of near misses ignite a conversation about a serious threat in our skies (4/5) **9.00 Nasca Lines: Ancient Secrets 10.00 Lost Temple of the Inca** The search for the last temple **11.00 Nazi Death Camp: The Great Escape** Prisoners recall an escape **12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation** Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides 8.00 Gold Divers 9.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail Parker Schnabel chases down mining leads in Peru and Bolivia **10.00 Gold Rush: White Water** Risking lives to find a fortune **11.00 Naked and Afraid XL 12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle**

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Sick of It (4/6) **7.30 Young Rock** (8/13) **8.00 The Conners 8.30 The Office (US) 9.00 Somebody Somewhere 10.00 Rovers** Double bill **11.00 The Righteous Gemstones 11.40-12.10am The Reluctant Landlord** Return of the comedy

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four shows **9.00 FILM Get Him to the Greek (15, 2010)** An intern escorts a manic rock star to a comeback show. Comedy with Russell Brand **11.00 Reno 911!** The lieutenant governor's brother goes missing **11.30 Reno 911!** The Nation of Islam **12.00-12.30am Impractical Jokers**

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Open All Hours Arkwright shifts an overstocked commodity **7.40 Dad's Army 8.20 Dad's Army 9.00 dinnerladies** Twinkle and Stan spoil Petula's Christmas plans **9.50 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV 10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys 11.05-12.10am Live at the Apollo**

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance A woman suffers a nose bleed **8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build Ireland** Renovating a home in Santry, north Dublin **9.00 24 Hours in A&E 10.00 999 Rescue Squad 11.00-12.00am Louis Theroux: The City Addicted to Crystal Meth**

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest (8/13) **8.00 Father Brown** (14/15) **9.00 Father Brown** (3/10) **10.00 Death in Paradise** (5/8) **11.00 Without a Trace** An adopted Sudanese boy disappears **12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators** A trick goes horribly wrong (4/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

3.00pm Live Indian Premier League Coverage of the first qualifier, held at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai **7.00 Sky Sports News 8.00 Sky Sports News 9.00 Sky Sports News 10.00 Sky Sports News 10.30 Back Pages Tonight** A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers **11.00pm-12.00m't Sky Sports News** Round-up of the sports news **1.30-4.00am Live NBA Basketball**

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm PL Review A look back at the weekend's action **8.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits** Highlights from the Saturday morning football show **8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox** The presenter talks to Alan Shearer **9.00 PL Review** A look back at the weekend's action **10.00 Soccer AM: The Best Bits 10.30 Premier League Icons** A profile of Yaya Toure **11.00-12.00m't PL Review** A look back at the weekend's action



Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am is a profile of the Nobel prize-winning author (Sky Arts, 9pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League Coverage of the first qualifier, held at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai **7.00 Ashes Greats** The 2001 Ashes Test at Headingley **7.25 Best of England v Australia 7.50 Ashes Greats** Andrew Flintoff's performances in 2005 **8.00 T20 Blast 2007 9.00 IPL** Action from the qualifier from M.A. Chidambaram Stadium **10.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket 11.00-12.00m't IPL** Highlights

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.00pm Uefa Champions League Magazine The latest news **7.30 BT Sport Goals Reload 7.45 Uefa Europa League Highlights Show** A review of the semi-final second-leg matches **8.15 Badminton Weekly 8.30 European Rally** Action from the latest round of the season **Championship Highlights 9.00 WWE Monday Night Raw 11.30pm-12.00m't Ariel Helwani Meets** WWE star Becky Lynch **1.00-3.15am Live WWE NXT**

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.00pm The FA Trophy 7.30 BT Sport Films The legacy of the Windrush generation **9.00 Ligue 1 Highlights** All the recent action from the top flight of French football **10.00 Premier League Reload 10.15 Premier League Stories 10.45 BT Sport Goals Reload 11.00 Scottish Football Extra 11.30-3.00am Live MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates v Texas Rangers** Coverage of the match from PNC Park (Start-time 11.35)

Tuesday 23

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am The Wrong Box (U, 1966) Comedy starring Ralph Richardson and John Mills **1.10pm First Men in the Moon (U, 1964)** Sci-fi adventure starring Lionel Jeffries **3.15 The Cockleshell Heroes (U, 1955)** Drama with Jose Ferrer and Trevor Howard **5.15 The Guns of Fort Petticoat (PG, 1957)** Western starring Audie Murphy **6.55 Sister Act (PG, 1992)** Comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg and Harvey Keitel **9.00 Alien: Covenant (15, 2017)** Sci-fi thriller starring Katherine Waterston **11.20 The Craft: Legacy (15, 2020)** Horror drama starring Cailee Spaeny, Gideon Adlon and Lovie Simone **1.10-3.35am Joy (12, 2015)** Drama starring Jennifer Lawrence. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Road to Happiness (U, 1941) Musical starring John Boles and Mona Barrie **7.20 Sherlock Holmes 7.50 There Was a Young Lady (U, 1953)** Comedy starring Michael Denison **9.30 Interpol Calling 10.00 The Last Days of Dolwyn (U, 1948)** Melodrama starring Richard Burton **11.55 Dangerous Crossing (PG, 1953)** Mystery with Max Showalter and Jeanne Crain **1.30pm Khartoum (PG, 1966)** Adventure starring Charlton Heston and Laurence Olivier **4.15 Forbidden Cargo (PG, 1954)** Drama starring Nigel Patrick and Elizabeth Sellars **6.00 Colonel March of Scotland Yard 6.30 Scotland Yard 7.05 Danger UXB 8.05 The Human Jungle 9.05 Maigret 10.55 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 11.00-1.10am The Puppet Masters (15, 1994)** Horror starring Donald Sutherland

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Lost Letter Mysteries: Home Again (PG, 2017) Mystery drama sequel starring Eric Mabius **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 A Healthy Place to Die: The Gourmet Detective (PG, 2015)** Drama with Dylan Neal **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 Garage Sale Mystery: Murder in D Minor (2018)** Mystery starring Lori Loughlin **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Evil Intent (PG, 2019)** Thriller starring Abbie Cobb **4.50 GREAT! Movie News 5.00 Dear Diary, I Died (PG, 2016)** Thriller starring Katherine Kelly Lang


Donald Sutherland stars (Talking Pictures TV, 11pm)

6.50 GREAT! Movie News 7.00 A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2015) Whodunit starring Candace Cameron Bure **8.50 GREAT! Movie News 9.00 Erin Brockovich (15, 2000)** Drama starring Julia Roberts and Albert Finney **11.35-1.40am New York, I Love You (15, 2009)** Drama starring Natalie Portman

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors 7.10 Off Set 7.25 One Spy Too Many (PG, 1966) Adventure with Robert Vaughn and David McCallum **9.35 One of Our Spies is Missing (U, 1966)** Adventure starring Robert Vaughn **11.25 Return of the Gunfighter (U, 1967)** Western starring Robert Taylor **1.30pm Fighter Squadron (U, 1948)** Second World War adventure with Robert Stack **3.30 To Trap a Spy (PG, 1966)** Thriller with Robert Vaughn **5.20 Rocky Mountain (U, 1950)** Western starring Errol Flynn and Patrice Wymore **7.05 The Last Challenge (PG, 1967)** Western starring Glenn Ford and Chad Everett **9.00 The Condemned (18, 2007)** Action thriller starring Steve Austin and Vinnie Jones **11.20-1.25am Righteous Kill (15, 2008)** Crime thriller with Robert De Niro and Al Pacino

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.10pm Marlowe (15, 2023) Thriller starring Liam Neeson **2.15 Alone Together (15, 2022)** Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **4.10 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **5.50 The Cinema List: The 90s** With Alex Zane **6.10 Confess, Fletch (15, 2022)** Comedy thriller with Jon Hamm and Roy Wood Jr **8.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **10.10-12.15am Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast. With former Conservative leader William Hague and former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** Jazz Show **10.00** Trevor Nelson **10.30** Trevor Nelson **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti Donald Macleod looks at Ligeti's arrival in the West **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** From the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. JS Bach (Preludio from Partita No 3 in E for solo violin BWV1006); Amjad Ali Khan (*Sacred Evening*) and Amjad Ali Khan (*Romancing Earth*) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Mozart (*Overture to Ascanio in Alba*); Haydn (Symphony No 64 in A); Monteverdi (*La Sestina*); Regis Campo (*The Wonder of Life*); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor, Op 68); Boccherini (Fandango from Quintet in D) and Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A, K 622) **5.00 In Tune** Sean Rafferty is joined by the Solem Quartet, performing live in the studio ahead of their concerts at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival **7.00 Classical Mixtape** A sequence of music **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** Rachmaninov's *Vespers* is interwoven with African musical traditions in a performance from cellist Abel Selaocoe and the BBC Singers **10.00 Free Thinking** John Gallagher looks at the Manchester Jewish Museum and talks to Linda Grant **10.45 The Essay: Death in Trieste** Seán Williams explores the speed at which the trial was reported across Europe **11.00 Night Tracks 12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

The Documentary
World Service, 9.30am

Beirut is still reeling from the explosions in the city's port area in 2020, as well as the worst economic and political crisis in Lebanon's history, with the currency's value plummeting and large swathes of the population living below the poverty line. What is it like to live through the collapse of your country, in a city you love and can't bear to leave? In *The Ballad of Beirut*, the writer Lina Mounzer, *above*, presents



a day in the life of ordinary people. She talks to grocers, bakers and taxi drivers as well as her friends, one of whom tells her that "money is history" but "Lebanon is an addiction". Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 The Life Scientific** New **9.30 One to One** New series **9.45 Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** Written by Naoíse Mac Sweeney (2/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Living With AI 11.30 Sound Towns** The origins of Fife's New Folk in East Neuk **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Call You and Yours 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Taking Issue with Shakespeare** Emma Smith is joined by Will Self (2/5) **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: The Bully** Written by Zalie Burrow (r) **3.00 The Kitchen Cabinet** (r) **3.30 Costing the Earth** Why becoming more energy efficient is so expensive **4.00 Law in Action** New series **4.30 Great Lives** The German novelist Thoman Mann **5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Olga Koch: OK Computer** New comedy series (1/4) **7.00 The Archers** Alice wants to mark an occasion **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 Affirmative Action on Trial: File on 4** (3/3) (r) **8.40 In Touch 9.00 All in the Mind 9.30 The Life Scientific** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks. (7/10) **11.00 The Confessional** (r) **11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** (2/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Sport **8.30** Jill Scott's Coffee Club **9.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **12.00** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. Debate and chat **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am The Goon Show **8.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **9.00** Who Goes There? **9.30** Big Town All Stars **10.00** The Prisoner **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** In My Mind's Eye **12.15pm** Dead Cert **12.30** North by Northamptonshire **1.00** The Goon Show **1.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **2.00** Who Goes There? **2.30** Big Town All Stars **3.00** The Prisoner **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** In My Mind's Eye **5.15** Dead Cert **5.30** North by Northamptonshire **6.00** The Goon Show **6.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **7.00** Who Goes There? **7.30** Big Town All Stars **8.00** Joan Collins: A Life in Lipstick **9.00** Mastertapes **9.30** Ruth Rendell Stories **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Comedy Club: Wosson Cornwall **10.30** The Jason Byrne Show. Stand-up **11.00** It Is Rocket Science **11.15** Paperback Hell **11.30** ElvenQuest

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** The Documentary: The Ballad of Beirut. Writer Lina Mounzer presents a day in the life of the people of Beirut. **See Choice** **10.00** News **10.06** The Arts Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** In the Studio **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Documentary: The Ballad of Beirut **8.30** Tech Tent **9.00** Newshour **10.06** People Fixing the World **10.30** In the Studio **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Arts Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Climate Question **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Documentary

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Tom Robinson **9.00** Amy Lamé **12.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence **1.00am** Wireless Nights

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Aled Jones **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics. With Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Wednesday 24 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Platonic
AppleTV+



Having played a married couple in the 2014 film *Neighbours* — known as *Bad Neighbours* in the UK to avoid confusion with a certain Aussie soap — and its 2016 sequel, Rose Byrne and Seth Rogen, *right*, reunite for this breezy ten-part comedy. It is co-created by Nicholas Stoller, who directed *Neighbours* and wrote the sequel so is well aware of the easy chemistry that exists between the two actors, and it is this that makes the series worth watching. Will (Rogen) and Sylvia (Byrne) were best friends (with no benefits) who "parted on the worst terms" because Sylvia and Will's wife, Audrey, hated each other. They haven't spoken for years, but when Sylvia finds out that Will is getting a divorce, her lawyer husband, Charlie (Luke Macfarlane, a Hallmark film regular), suggests that she should get back in touch with him. "It will just be weird," she protests. "Men and women don't really hang out with each other at our age." Still, she decides to bite the bullet and reconnect, but without letting Will know that she is aware of the divorce. Their first (brief) encounter takes place in a coffee shop, and the conversation is prickly — he feigns interest in her children; she says he dresses like "a Nineties grunge clown" — and littered with awkward pauses. But they meet again at a party in Will's downtown hipster bar and, after a spot of blood-letting, settle back into their old groove, the friendship soon becoming all-consuming and threatening to destabilise their lives. Three half-hour episodes are available today, with the remaining seven on a weekly basis. Joe Clay

The Clearing
Disney+

Based on *In the Clearing*, a 2019 novel by the bestselling author JP Pomare, this eight-part psychological thriller is inspired by the 1980s Australian cult The Family, led by Anne Hamilton-Byrne, who convinced followers that she was the reincarnation of Jesus Christ and "stole" children to groom in her own image. Teresa Palmer plays a woman who has escaped a similar cult and is trying to raise her son in the outside world, but is forced to confront her demons when her old life starts to intrude. Miranda Otto and Guy Pearce play the cult leaders, who rule over a host of spooky blond children. **JC**

The Great British Sewing Bee
BBC1, 9pm

Sara Pascoe welcomes another group of 12 passionate home sewers to Sewing Bee HQ in Leeds, with Patrick Grant and Esme Young running the rule over their creations. The first challenge is making a top with a twist at its centre, while for the transformation challenge contestants tackle the "office uniform" (pencil skirt and a blouse) and in made-to-measure they must create a perfectly fitting dress for their models with cut-out details. Even if you have no interest in sewing this is a pleasant series, and there is much to admire in the talents on show. **JC**

11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting
BBC2, 9pm/9.50pm

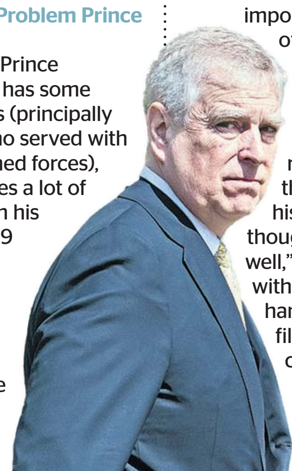
The harrowing series about the 2017 shooting at a Las Vegas music festival concludes, with footage showing the chaos after Stephen Paddock opened fire from a 32nd-floor hotel window. Testimony from emergency responders reveals how quickly they were overwhelmed. Police cameras capture the operation to force entry to the hotel room. Multiple shooters had been reported, but it was all just one man. Was it a terrorist attack? The final episode looks at the search for answers. **JC**

Lucky Sunil
BBC4, 10pm

Years before Andrew Davies became the go-to screenwriter for literary adaptations, he penned this 1988 farce for the BBC's anthology drama series Screen Two. The title is ironic, as our hero (Kulvinder Ghir) faces a series of misfortunes after travelling from India to study law. He discovers that he is enrolled not at a prestigious university but at a crammer college for failing students. After further humiliations he falls in with a film crew (Hugh Cornwell of the Stranglers plays the cameraman). Could Sunil find film stardom instead? Alas, it turns out they are shooting the sort of film we would now brand NSFW. **JC**

Catch up

Andrew: The Problem Prince
Channel 4



This profile of Prince Andrew, *right*, has some positive voices (principally from those who served with him in the armed forces), but also focuses a lot of its attention on his disastrous 2019 *Newsnight* interview, as Emily Maitlis and the producer Sam McAlister once again discuss their scoop. While Maitlis acknowledges she knew that if the prince agreed to the interview it would be "the most extraordinary piece of television I had ever made", she is also keen to stress the importance of this story of "paedophilia … sexual abuse and a monstrous man [Jeffrey Epstein], and the ramifications for the prince who was his friend". "He thought it had gone well," McAlister reveals, with the prince even hanging around after filming had concluded to chat with the programme-makers. **Ben Dowell**

Regional programmes

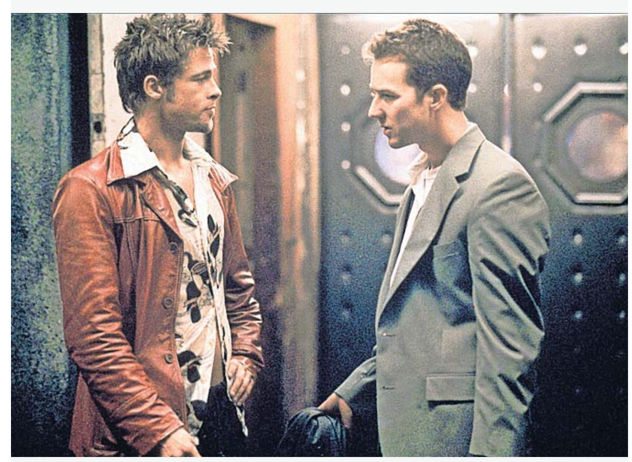
● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** BBC Wales Live **11.10** You Don't Look... Depressed. Laura designs a look for Dafydd to visualise depression **11.15** Rookie Nurses (r) **11.45** I Kissed a Boy **12.30-1.15am** I Kissed a Boy
● **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 2.45pm** A Countryside Summer. Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin visit the Lake District (r) **3.15** A Countryside Summer. Adam Henson finds out about the benefits of lavender (r) **3.45** Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. The wildlife of Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan (r) **4.45** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The two finalists redesign trendy bars in Soho. Last in the series (r) **5.45-6.00pm** Flog It! From Manchester (r)
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Nolan Live. Lively debate **11.40** I Kissed a Boy **12.25am** I Kissed a Boy **1.15-6.00am** BBC News
● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 11.15pm** Spotlight (r) **11.45** Unspun World with John Simpson. The week's major global news stories (r) **12.15-12.40am** BBC News The latest stories
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 2.15pm** Politics Scotland **3.00-3.45** Money for Nothing (r) **10.40** Sportscene **11.40** I Kissed a Boy (r) **12.25am** I Kissed a Boy (r) **1.10** The Edit (r) **1.25** Debate Night (r) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.30-6.00am** BBC News
● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.10** Peston. Political magazine show **12.00-3.00** Teleshopping **4.45-6.00am** Night Vision
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Secret Body (r) **8.00** Fake or Fortune? (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City **10.30** Debate Night **11.30pm-Midnight** Two Doors Down (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **12.00** News **12.05pm** Dau Gi Bach (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **1.30** Garddio a Mwy (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Iaith ar Daith (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Cymylaubychain (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **4.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **4.30** Stiw (r) **4.45** Cacamwnci (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Dewi a'r Ditectifs Gwyllt (r) **5.10** Y Dyfnfor (r) **5.30** Larfa (r) **5.35** Ci Da (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Cai feels undermined by Ffion **8.25** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd. Ryland and his daughters cross the river Suir into county Wexford **8.55** News **9.00** Ty am Ddim **10.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **10.45** Bwyd Bach Shumana a Catrin (r) **11.15-11.50** Ar y Dibyn (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

Fight Club (18, 1999)
Film4, 10.55pm

David Fincher's adaptation of the Chuck Palahniuk novel is a shrewd and expertly crafted study of the male in crisis. Edward Norton's character, named only as the Narrator, finds respite from his slow-burning existential crisis when he meets the charismatic iconoclast Tyler Durden (Brad Pitt, *below with Norton*) on a plane. The two start a weekly meeting in which they cathartically beat each other to a pulp. Thus Fight Club is born. Despite a strict code of secrecy, the popularity of these ad hoc sessions spirals. But things get complicated, not least by a love triangle involving Marla, played by Helena Bonham Carter, who insisted that the make-up artist use her weaker hand, reasoning that Marla would be unlikely to care about looking polished. (139min) **Wendy Ide**



American Gigolo (18, 1980)
Film4, 1.45am

Although it met with a mixed critical response, Paul Schrader's portrait of a male prostitute is one of the more interesting of the erotic thrillers of the 1980s. Richard Gere is pretty and empty as Julian, the Los Angeles call boy whose glamorous life belies a profound emotional isolation. Lauren Hutton is a politician's wife whose offer of help when Julian is implicated in a murder is hard for the disengaged Julian to accept. Stylish and deliberately alienating, the film took its lead from European arthouse rather than Hollywood. John Travolta turned down the lead role when Schrader refused to give him approval over the final cut. It has been remade as a TV drama starring Jon Bernthal in Gere's role that is streaming on Paramount+. (112min) **WI**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Wednesday 24

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Bear's encounter with the police takes a turn **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore finds an Edwardian armchair in Witley recycling centre **3.00** Escape to the Country. Margherita Taylor helps a couple find a family home in Cambridgeshire (r) **3.45** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Coverage of the event **4.30** The Repair Shop. The experts restore a saddler's stitching stool and a ceramic clock (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather


Sewing Bee returns (9pm)

7.00 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** The sights and sounds of the famous horticultural event

7.30 **EastEnders** Ben struggles to accept Lola's prognosis and accuses the family of accepting it too easily

8.00 **The Repair Shop** A woman brings in her King Charles II painting, hoping Lucia Scalisi can restore it to its crowning glory, and silversmith Brenton West works on a trunk, which holds cherished memories for a mother and daughter (r)

9.00 **The Great British Sewing Bee** New series. Sara Pascoe, Patrick Grant and Esme Young welcome 12 sewers to the competition and set them tasks to show their own personal flair in classic designs. **See Viewing Guide** (1/10)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Regional News**

10.40 **I Kissed a Boy** Mikey makes a decision that sends shockwaves through the masseria (3/8) (r)

11.25 **I Kissed a Boy** Dannii Minogue shakes things up by welcoming three men into the masseria, to see if some of the couples who have matched up are as devoted as they appear (4/8) (r)

12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.15** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (r) **7.15** Escape to the Country (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Factory (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **11.15** Politics Live **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef cooks a wild River Severn salmon (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. The benefits of lavender (r) **3.15** Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. The wildlife of south-west Japan (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The finalists redesign bars in Soho. Last in the series (r) **5.15** Flog It! From Buckinghamshire (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Mehreen Baig, Clare Balding, Jamie Laing and Mike Wozniak (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Morecambe to Grange-Over-Sands


Japan's Enchanted Islands (3.15pm)

7.00 **Digging for Britain** Alice Roberts heads to a farmer's field in Rutland to examine evidence of a Roman barn conversion, featuring a three-room spa, as well as visiting the excavation of one of Henry VIII's forts in Hull (5/6) (r)

8.00 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** The BBC gardening team present the sights and sounds of the famous events, with highlights of the gardens and tips for amateur horticulturists

9.00 **11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting** The FBI joins the investigation into the attack on the 2017 Las Vegas festival. **See Viewing Guide** (3/4)

9.45 **11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting** The impact the attack on the music festival had on the survivors, with some still searching for closure. **See Viewing Guide** (4/4)

10.30 **Newsnight** Analysis of the day's events with Kirsty Wark

11.15 **Unspun World with John Simpson** The week's major global news stories

11.40 **Forensics: The Real CSI** An armed gang robs gold from a jewellery store (2/4) (r)

12.40am Sign Zone: Frontline Fightback. A couple catch three masked men trying to steal a catalytic converter (r) (SL) **1.25** Rip Off Britain (r) (SL) **2.10** Saving Lives in Leeds (r) (SL) **3.10-4.10** Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Another helping of topical discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and his team descend on Crewe Hall, where Fay Rutter cannot say no to a watercolour (r) **3.00** Tenable. A family team take on the Tenable Tower as they try to win £125,000. Quiz, hosted by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather


A visit to Emmerdale (7.30pm)

7.30 **Emmerdale** Belle confesses the truth about her past to Tom — indirectly leading him to a confrontation with Jimmy

8.00 **Coronation Street** Paul realises there is something wrong with his right foot and hides it from Billy — but when Gemma asks him to give her away, he fears he will be unable to walk her down the aisle. Craig urges Faye to follow her heart

9.00 **Maryland** Richard and Jim descend on Bayview, and whilst the family tries to heal and reconnect, the fallout from Mary's actions continue to reverberate. Last in the series

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**; Weather

10.30 **Regional News**

10.45 **Peston** Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston

11.40 **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** Vietnam Airlines are battling baggage woes (r)

12.05am Teleshopping **3.00** All-Inclusive Holidays: Unpacked: Tonight. Ginny Buckley reports on the value and practicalities of all-inclusive holidays (r) (SL) **3.25** Maryland. Drama series (r) (SL) **4.20** Save Money: Lose Weight (r) (SL) **4.45** Unwind with ITV

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. With Vick Hope **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A Portsmouth pair seek their perfect property in Almería (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple are looking for a holiday home to suit three generations **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. Holiday village owners advertise for volunteers to complete their renovations (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. With the voice of Natalie Portman (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Darren decides to take matters into his own hands (r)


Havana seeks her father (9pm)

7.00 **Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather

8.00 **Location, Location, Location** Two designers who have a large budget but no luck when it comes to making a deal enlist the help of Kirstie Allsopp in their search for a family home. While Phil Spencer meets a couple who want a family home

9.00 **Kids** As they approach adulthood, a 16-year-old has never known her dad but with help from the service she hopes to find her father, and a boy wants to understand why he was taken into care (3/3)

10.00 **Naked Attraction** Anna Richardson meets a 34-year-old from Kent who runs her own business and is looking for Mr Right, and a 27-year-old trans man from Norwich is new to the dating scene and is looking for someone special

11.05 **First Dates** A 34-year-old construction manager from Essex putting a broken engagement behind him is partnered with a personal trainer whose love life is in need of a good workout (6/6) (r)

12.05am My Name Is Reeva **1.00** 24 Hours in A&E (r) **1.55** Grand Designs: The Streets (r) (SL) **2.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds (r) (SL) **3.20** Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.10** Couples Come Dine with Me **5.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **5.10** Moneybags

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Rose is putting her investigation before Xander (r) **2.15** FILM **Stalked by My Teacher (PG, TVM, 2020)** A father and daughter move to California, where a cheerleading coach turns their lives into a nightmare. Thriller starring Vivica A Fox **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The presenter and antiques expert Rachel Holland face off in a midweek duel in Stourbridge **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Midlife Crisis take on the regular team (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Crabapples try to defeat the Eggheads (r) **6.55** 5 News Update


Natural History Museum (8pm)

7.00 **Jane McDonald: My Yorkshire** Jane visits the station featured in classic film *The Railway Children*, and heads to Haworth to learn more about the Brontë sisters' lives (2/5) (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Natural History Museum: World of Wonder** Tori the ancient mammal expert meets artist Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg for The Lost Rhino exhibition and The Chairman of the Board of Trustees pays a visit (3/4); followed by 5 News Update

9.00 **999: Critical Condition** A man is brought into resus with suspected sepsis, and after her horse threw her to the ground, a woman suffered significant nerve damage that could mean that she is paralysed

10.00 **Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** A 50-year-old is rushed in after an accident involving a garden shredder, while a three-year-old is brought in by her father after a mishap with a sun cream bottle. Last in the series (r)

11.05 **A&E After Dark** The night shift staff treat an elderly pedestrian who has been run over, and a CT scan reveals broken ribs, a bleed in the brain, and a broken shoulder (4/10) (r)

12.05am 999: Criminals Caught on Camera (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Inside the Tower of London (r) **3.45** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.00** Great Artists (r) **5.25** Milkshake! **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45** Thomas (r) (SL)

Wednesday 24 | Primetime digital guide



Baby Done
Rose Matafeo and Matthew Lewis star in the 2020 comedy drama
BBC3, 10pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show Reports
9.30 Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan Discussion
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides viewers through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events and headlines
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics and latest news headlines
10.00 First Edition
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored Discussion

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (4/6)
8.00 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The MUAs turn to TikTok to showcase their make-up tricks (4/8)
9.00 Rookie Nurses Caitlin sees just how fast things can take an unexpected turn while working in A&E (3/5)
9.30 Rookie Nurses Issie deals with a trauma call at the stroke unit and Nivea proves she's cannulation queen (4/5)
10.00 FILM Baby Done (15, 2020) A wannabe-adventurer freaks out when she falls pregnant, and attempts to rush through her dreams before becoming a mother. Comedy starring Rose Matafeo and Emily Barclay
11.30-12.30am Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The MUAs turn to TikTok to showcase their make-up tricks (4/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Railways: The Making of a Nation How the railways changed the culinary tastes of Londoners (5/6)
7.30 Oak Tree: Nature's Greatest Survivor George McGavin studies an oak tree throughout the seasons of the year, investigating its surprisingly sophisticated biology and how it adapts to its changing environment
9.00 Secrets of Size: Atoms to Supergalaxies Jim Al-Khalili explores the universe at the smallest scales, from tiny atoms to vast galaxies (1/2)
10.00 Lucky Sunil Satirical drama starring Kulvinder Ghir. An Indian student seeks his fortune in London.
See Viewing Guide
11.15-12.15am Andrew Davies: Rewriting the Classics The writer discusses the process of adapting classic novels for television

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY A couple move into their new home in western France, but struggle with the language (11/15)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows the progress of a couple who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house in the South Downs
9.00 Hitler: The Lost Tapes The public and private life of the infamous dictator, featuring the photos and videos of two photographers who dedicated their lives to documenting Hitler (1/4)
10.00 Roads from Hell: Caught on Camera Real-life footage revealing what can happen when motorists venture out onto the roads
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E A man is treated by medics after falling off a ladder while fixing his roof

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood The Wiccan festival of Samhain arrives in Bon Temps (12/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Robb and his bannermen gather at the Twins in the northern Riverlands to attend the wedding of Lord Edmure Tully and Roslin Frey, daughter of Lord Walder. Starring Richard Madden and David Bradley (9/10) (R)
9.00 Perry Mason Paul's shocking discovery brings the brothers' testimony into question, while Perry pursues a plea deal and Della continues her search for answers (4/8) (R)
10.05 Succession Drama about a dysfunctional media dynasty, starring Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin (9/10) (R)
11.25-12.35am The Night Of Alison tries to persuade Naz to take a plea deal (4/8) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm The Lady and the Dale As law enforcement begins to close in on the 20th Century Motor Car Company, Liz once again goes on the run — but she soon faces much media scrutiny (3/4) (R)
7.55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed Oliver Stone's four-part documentary exploring the Kennedy assassination, and questioning the actions of the President's political enemies (3/4) (R)
9.00 Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King The rise and fall of the former Spanish King Juan Carlos I, who modernised his nation after the Franco regime (1/4) (R)
10.00 Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King The rise and fall of the former Spanish monarch (2/4) (R)
11.00-1.00am FILM The Go-Go's (15, 2020) The history of the American new wave band

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore The superstore plays host to local small businesses, including Glenn's wife
7.30 Superstore Jonah helps Amy track down the district manager
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Hell's Kitchen The final two contestants go head to head
10.00 Shopping with Keith Lemon
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
11.55-12.25am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Heartbeat Ventress becomes obsessed with protecting a widow's home from a gang of louts and Greengrass tries to break into the fish and chip industry
8.00 Lewis When a student's body is hauled from the canal with stab wounds, suspicion falls on her lover and his jealous wife
10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood Tony becomes absorbed in a bizarre chain of murders in which each perpetrator becomes the next victim (5&6/8)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm BattleBots Tombstone and Whiplash fight to the finish
7.55 The Motorbike Show Henry Cole flies out to Bologna in Italy to tell the story of Ducati, Italy's greatest bike brand
9.00 No Room for Error Race week gets underway
10.00-11.00pm FILM Sudden Death (18, 1995) A former fireman battles to stop terrorists holding the US vice president hostage. Action thriller starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Powers Boothe

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Charlie comes to realise that Darren has his best interests at heart
7.30 The Big Bang Theory Leonard gets back together with Leslie
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht The atmosphere on board is dampened when Jenna and Adam get into a huge fight
9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox The penultimate stage of the process focuses on joy (7/8)
10.00 Gogglebox
11.05-12.10am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Trivia-based games
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With former winners Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor
8.20 Room 101 Frank Skinner hosts
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Richard Ayoade hosts an extended edition of the news quiz
10.00 Mock the Week
10.40 Mock the Week
11.20 QI Quirky quiz show
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Howard has a gift for Marina
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Howard has some explaining to do
8.00 Kingdom A beautiful woman seeks Kingdom's help
9.00 The Coroner A man is found dead in a container that has washed up on the beach
10.00 New Tricks The team investigates a man's disappearance five years earlier during a run
11.20-1.30am Silent Witness A gangland murder is investigated

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain Craftsmanship (7/13)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain A steam-powered museum (8/13)
8.00 Secrets of the London Underground Tim Dunn and Siddy Holloway explore the disused parts of Piccadilly Circus (3/6)
9.00 Secrets of the London Underground (4/6)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (6/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (8/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.55pm Grand Tours of Scotland The rise of the seaside as a popular tourist destination (6/6)
7.30 Australia in Colour Crimes that shocked the nation (3/4)
8.35 WWII in Color: Road to Victory Churchill realises the importance of the Suez Canal
9.45 D-Day 360 The battlefield of Omaha Beach is brought to life
10.55 Australia in Colour Crimes that shocked the nation (3/4)
12.00-1.05am WWII in Color: Road to Victory

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: Meg Ryan A profile of the American actress
8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2018 The contestants paint sitters Noel Fielding, Reggie Yates and Daphne Selfe (2/11)
9.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir Jim and Nancy are joined by Chris Packham (6/6)
10.00 The Art of the Album Cover Examining the hidden stories behind famous album sleeves
11.50-1.20am Nina Simone: The Lost Album Documentary.

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire
8.00 Swamp People: Serpent Invasion The battle for the Everglades becomes personal for Troy and Pickle
9.00 The Curse of Oak Island As winter apparaches, the swamp reveals more of its secrets
10.00 Deadman's Curse Adam and Kru set out on the trail of missing prospector Volcanic Brown (3/8)
11.00 Evil Encounters Stories of paranormal encounters. (1/12)
12.00-1.00am A Cut Above

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 The crew hears reports that a System Lord is living a secret life on Earth
8.00 S.W.A.T An armoured truck heist ends in bloodshed
9.00 Strike Back: Shadow Warfare The team pulls out the big guns when Martinez becomes infected. Starring Philip Winchester (10/10)
10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With Shaun Ryder and Bez (7/7)
10.45 Last King of the Cross (1/10)
11.45-12.45am The Force: North East (3/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A commercial flight's crash while landing at Cork Airport in 2011
8.00 Alaska: The Next Generation Alaskans acquire valuable resources necessary for survival
9.00 America's Hardest Prisons A gang war threatens to engulf an entire jail and an out-of-control inmate attacks officers
10.00 Russia's Toughest Prisons
11.00 Nazi Child Soldiers
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides A semi hauler comes in for a makeover
8.00 Gold Divers Shawn has a bold plan to rebuild the Myrtle Irene
9.00 Deadliest Catch Following the work of Alaskan crab fisherman
10.00 Arctic Ice Railroad
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Sick of It (6/6)
7.30 Young Rock (9/13)
8.00 The Conners
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 And Just Like That (6/10)
9.45 Miracle Workers: Oregon Trail Double bill
10.45 Rovers Double bill
11.45-12.25am Silicon Valley (3/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show
10.00 Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story
11.00 Reno 911! Johnson flaunts herself around town
11.30 Reno 911! Jones and Garcia pretend to be hippies
12.00-12.30am Digman!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Open All Hours Granville's bike develops a squeak
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 dinnerladies
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.20 Mrs Brown's Boys
11.00 Live at the Apollo
12.00-12.40am Mrs Brown's Boys

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

6.00pm MasterChef Australia
8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build Ireland Baz and the team build an extension for the Parsons family in Longwood, Co Meath
9.00 Wedding Valley
10.00 The Undateables
11.00-12.00 Louis Theroux: Dark States — Heroin Town

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest Root makes a shocking discovery (9/13)
8.00 Father Brown (15/15)
9.00 CSI: Vegas
10.00 Evil (6/13)
11.00 Without a Trace
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Lighthearted mystery (5/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

3.00pm Live Indian Premier League Coverage of the Eliminator match from M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai
7.00 Live Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City Coverage of the top-flight match from Amex Stadium (Kick-off **8.00**)
11.00pm-12.00m't Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis
2.00-4.30am Live NBA Basketball Coverage of a play-off match

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Live Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City Coverage of the top-flight match from Amex Stadium. The Citizens claimed a 3-1 win when the sides met at Etihad Stadium in October thanks to a brace by Erling Haaland and a further strike courtesy of Kevin De Bruyne (Kick-off **8.00**)
11.00 Premier League Stories Behind the scenes of the top flight
11.30-12.00m't Premier League Icons Carlos Tevez



Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon features in The Art of the Album Cover (Sky Arts, 10pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League Coverage of the Eliminator match from M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai
7.00 Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Somerset v Hampshire Hawks Coverage of the South Division match at Cooper Associates County Ground
10.30 IPL Action from the Eliminator match
11.30 T20 Blast 2006 The final
11.45-12.00m't Best of T20 Blast Finals Day Highlights

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

6.00pm Live MLB: Milwaukee Brewers v Houston Astros Coverage of the inter-league match from American Family Field (Start-time **6.10**)
9.30 UFC Fight Flashback Conor McGregor v Nate Diaz in UFC 196
10.00 World Poker Tour Series
11.00 World Poker Tour Series
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: Atlanta Braves v Los Angeles Dodgers Coverage of the National League match from Truist Park (Start-time **12.20**)

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.00pm PSA Squash Highlights Action from the Manchester Open
8.00 The Football's On A humorous look at the week's football stories with Ian Stone
9.00 WWE NXT Wrestling action
10.45 WWE Raw Highlights
11.45-12.45am Ariel Helwani Meets WWE star Cody Rhodes
3.00-11.30am Live Badminton Coverage of the Round of 16 at the Malaysia Masters, which takes place at Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Wednesday 24

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

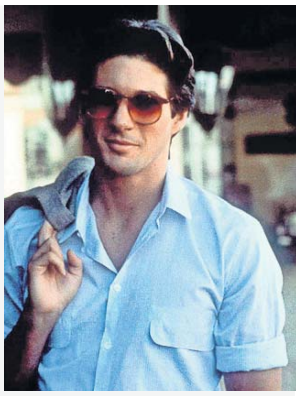
11.00am Timberjack (U, 1954) Western with Sterling Hayden **12.55pm To Hell and Back (PG, 1955)** Second World War biopic starring Audie Murphy **3.05 Tomahawk (PG, 1951)** Western starring Van Heflin **4.45 High Noon (U, 1952)** Western starring Gary Cooper **6.25 Star Trek Into Darkness (12, 2013)** Sci-fi adventure sequel starring Chris Pine **9.00 Men in Black (PG, 1997)** Sci-fi comedy with Will Smith **10.55 Fight Club (18, 1999)** Satirical drama starring Brad Pitt. **See Film Choice** **1.45-4.00am American Gigolo (18, 1980)** Thriller with Richard Gere. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am The Detectives **7.00 The Passing Stranger (PG, 1954)** Drama with Lee Patterson and Diane Cilento **8.20 The Farmer's Wife (U, 1941)** Drama starring Basil Sydney and Wilfrid Lawson **10.00 The Onedin Line** **11.00 The Left Hand of God (U, 1955)** Romantic adventure starring Humphrey Bogart **12.45pm Freedom To Die (PG, 1961)** Crime thriller with Paul Maxwell and Felicity Young **2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs** **3.00 Tomorrow (PG, 1972)** Drama starring Robert Duvall **5.05 Sierra Baron (U, 1958)** Western starring Brian Keith **6.45 Witness In The Dark (U, 1959)** Thriller starring Patricia Dainton and Conrad Phillips **8.00 Gideon's Way** **9.00 The Wild Affair (PG, 1965)** Comedy starring Nancy Kwan and Terry-Thomas **10.50-12.40am The Long Wait (PG, 1954)** Crime drama starring Anthony Quinn

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Lost Letter Mysteries: Signed Sealed Delivered (PG, 2013) Mystery starring Eric Mabius **10.50 GREAT! Movie News** **11.00 Death Al Dente: The Gourmet Detective (PG, 2015)** Murder mystery starring Alissa Skovbye **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News** **1.00 Garage Sale Mystery: Picture a Murder (PG, 2018)** Mystery starring Lori Loughlin **2.50 GREAT! Movie News** **3.00 Hidden in Plain Sight (PG, 2019)** Thriller starring Victoria Barabas, Gino Anthony Pesi and Jake Allyn **4.50 GREAT! Movie News** **5.00 Betrayed By Lies (PG, 2018)** Drama starring Amy Nuttall and Daniel Lapaine **6.50 GREAT! Movie News** **7.00 Evil Nanny (12, 2016)** Thriller starring Lindsay Elston and Nicole Sterling


Richard Gere in American Gigolo (Film4, 1.45am)

8.50 GREAT! Movie News **9.00 Tears of the Sun (15, 2003)** Action drama starring Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci and Cole Hauser **11.20-1.45am To End All Wars (18, 2001)** Second World War drama starring Robert Carlyle

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am TCM Shorts **6.20 The Helicopter Spies (PG, 1967)** Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn **8.15 Law of the Panhandle (PG, 1950)** Western starring Johnny Mack Brown **9.30 Torpedo Run (U, 1958)** Adventure starring Glenn Ford and Ernest Borgnine **11.30 A Thunder of Drums (PG, 1961)** Western drama starring Richard Boone **1.30pm The Plunderers (PG, 1960)** Western starring Jeff Chandler and John Saxon **3.25 The Fighting Lawman (U, 1953)** Western with Wayne Morris and Virginia Grey **4.55 How to Steal the World (PG, 1968)** Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn **6.45 Guns for San Sebastian (PG, 1968)** Western drama starring Anthony Quinn **9.00 Criminal (15, 2016)** Thriller starring Kevin Costner and Ryan Reynolds **11.20-1.10am Survive the Night (15, 2020)** Action thriller starring Bruce Willis and Chad Michael Murray

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.15pm Marlowe (15, 2023) Crime thriller starring Liam Neeson and Diane Kruger **2.15 Vengeance (15, 2022)** Mystery drama starring BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **4.15 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **6.05 Alone Together (15, 2022)** Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **8.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert **10.10-12.10am Halloween Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Andi Matichak

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. With guest Cate Blanchett **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Uplifting tunes **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Alternative Sounds of the 90s **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.00 Essential Classics** **12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti** How Ligeti's technical and aesthetic investigations found expression in the first set of piano études **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Bass-baritone Shenyang joins pianist Simon Lepper for music celebrating Chinese New Year. Einem (5 songs from the Chinese Op 8 No 2); Webern (4 Songs Op 12 No 2); Sjögren (*Wenn nur ein Traum das Dasein ist*, Op 54 No 1) Yinghai (*A Night Mooring by Maple Bridge*) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Lennon and McCartney arr Brouwer (*Penny Lane*); Bechara El-Khoury (Flute concerto No 2); Mozart (Symphony No 14 in A); Nielsen (Symphony No 4, Op 29) and Leo Brouwer (*Micropiezas*) **4.00 Live Choral Evensong** From St Paul's Cathedral **5.00 In Tune** With American pianist Stephen Kovacevich **7.00 Classical Mixtape** A sequence of music **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** From Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. Bernd Richard Deutsch (*Phantasma* — UK premiere). Strauss (*Brentano Lieder*) and Scriabin (Canon in D minor) **10.00 Free Thinking** A re-telling of *The Little Mermaid* **10.45 The Essay: Death in Trieste** The life of the German historian Johann Winckelmann **11.00 Night Tracks** **12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

Room 101 with Paul Merton
Radio 4, 6.30pm
Axed as a TV series in 2018 — its last series presented by Frank Sinner and featuring a panel of guests — this celebration of everything hateful returns in its original one-to-one radio incarnation. The previous host, Paul Merton, *right*, is back to ask the questions, and the first guest to tell us what they would banish to the room is the presenter Claudia Winkleman. This



show works best when the guests stick their necks out. Whether Winkleman has done this — her choices include picnics, whispering and alliteration — is for you to decide. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **5.58 Tweet of the Day** (r) **6.00 Today** **8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 More or Less** New series **9.30 Please Protect Abraham** An inquest is announced (r) **9.45 Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** Written by Naoíse Mac Sweeney (3/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service** **10.00 Woman's Hour** **11.00 Faith on the Factory Floor, Flock in a Hard Hat** (r) **11.30 A Very British Cult** Lighthouse International Group end up in court (8/8) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping** **12.04 You and Yours** **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Taking Issue with Shakespeare** Emma Smith is joined by Fiona Shaw (3/5) **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Happy Hour** **3.00 Money Box Live** **3.30 All in the Mind** (r) **4.00 Thinking Allowed** **4.30 The Media Show** **5.00 PM** **5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast** **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 Room 101 with Paul Merton** New series. Claudia Winkleman tries to banish her pet hates. **See Choice** **7.00 The Archers** Tom strikes a controversial deal **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 The Moral Maze** New run **9.00 Costing the Earth** (r) **9.30 The Media Show** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (8/10) (r) **11.00 Twayna Mayne: Black Woman** (r) **11.30 Today in Parliament** **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** (3/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester City (Kick-off **8.00**) **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Hancock's Half Hour **8.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **9.00** Nature Table **9.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **10.00** The Prisoner **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** In My Mind's Eye **12.15pm** Dead Cert **12.30** Women Talking About Cars **1.00** Hancock's Half Hour **1.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **2.00** Nature Table **2.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **3.00** The Prisoner **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** In My Mind's Eye **5.15** Dead Cert **5.30** Women Talking About Cars. With Una Stubbs **6.00** Hancock's Half Hour. Comedy **6.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **7.00** Nature Table **7.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **8.00** Tears of a Clown. Robin Ince examines the relationship between stand-up comedy and mental health **9.00** Short Cuts. With Josie Long **9.30** Ruth Rendell Stories **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Comedy Club: Lemn Sissay's Social Enterprise **10.30** Pick-Ups **11.00** The Sofa of Time **11.30** The Mel and Sue Thing

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** The Climate Question **10.00** News **10.06** The Documentary **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Documentary **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Tech Tent **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Climate Question **8.30** Healthcheck **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Documentary: Global Dancefloor **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Documentary **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Assignment **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Food Chain

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Tom Robinson **9.00** Amy Lamé **12.00** Freak Zone Playlist **1.00am** Music of Quality and Distinction: British Electric Foundation. The work of the band and production company

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Thursday 25 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Strike: Inside the Unions
BBC2, 9pm

Most people reading this will have been affected by recent industrial action, be it children off school, cancelled trains or perhaps even an operation postponed. However, how many of us really understand the motivations behind the latest wave of strikes? In this two-part documentary, BBC cameras are allowed inside the unions to explore their role in modern-day Britain. There is unique access to some of the biggest names involved — Mick Lynch of the RMT, Pat Cullen of the Royal College of Nurses and Sharon Graham of Unite — allowing viewers to see some of the context behind the decision-making that led to the largest number of strikes in the UK for decades. The series will also tell the stories of the workers they represent on the picket lines, from nurses and teachers to London bus drivers and Amazon workers.

The first part begins with a look at the RMT, whose strikes last summer kicked off this wave of disputes. Viewers are taken behind the scenes of the negotiations between the government, the train companies and the union, revealing the attempts made to end the stalemate over pay and conditions and avoid the industrial action that crippled the country over Christmas. The episode also hears from nurses who say their wages have stagnated for a decade and who have withdrawn their labour for the first time in the union's 106-year history for fear of the future of their profession. And if you're wondering why the series looks like a platform for the unions, the government, Abellio (the Dutch-owned company that operates bus and rail services in London) and Amazon all declined to take part. Joe Clay



Fubar
Netflix

Arnold Schwarzenegger takes his first leading role in a scripted live-action TV series, playing a version of his characters in the Hollywood films that made him a star. In the eight-part action-comedy *Fubar* (standing for "f***ed up beyond all recognition"), Arnie is Luke Brenner, a cigar-smoking veteran CIA operative on the verge of retirement when he is forced back in the field for one last mission to rescue a fellow spy — fun twist alert — who just happens to be his daughter, Emma (Monica Barbaro). Neither had been aware what the other did for a living, and a madcap, bullet-strewn caper ensues. **JC**

Brian Cox: Amol Rajan Interviews
BBC2, 7pm

The actor discusses his journey from an impoverished upbringing in Dundee (his father, a shopkeeper, died when Cox was young and his mother had mental-health issues) to Hollywood. His global fame has exploded since taking the role of the media mogul Logan Roy in the hit HBO drama *Succession*, and Rajan has plenty of questions about the series. Cox gives some insight into what happens on set, his thoughts on the Method acting technique used by his co-star Jeremy Strong and his inspiration for Logan. **JC**

AI: What You Need to Know — Tonight
ITV1, 8.30pm

You have probably seen headlines on how artificial intelligence is going to take over the world, so here Rachel Younger aims to explore its promise and perils. Its impact is being compared to that of the Industrial Revolution, with AI enhancing healthcare, streamlining our working lives and offering companionship. However, the race to harness AI has raised some unsettling questions about to what extent we can trust and control it. You might not sleep any easier after watching this. **JC**

Great British Dog Walks with Phil Spencer
More4, 9pm

The TV estate agent is walking Alfred Wainwright's Coast to Coast path with Luna, a ten-month-old German shorthaired pointer. Their journey begins at St Bees beach in Cumbria, where Luna gets her first taste of the sea. They are later joined by Mark "Billy" Billingham, the lead instructor on *SAS: Who Dares Wins*, and his bulldog Alfie. Billingham tells Spencer his life story, from knife fights on the streets of Walsall, West Midlands, to serving on the world's battlefields and rescuing hostages. **JC**

Films of the day

The Color Purple (15, 1986)
BBC4, 9.30pm

Whoopi Goldberg, *below*, made her name as Celie Johnson, the hero of Alice Walker's harrowing yet tender Pulitzer prizewinning novel set in early 20th-century Georgia. Celie is raped by the man she calls Pa, is beaten by the man to whom he marries her off and is forcibly separated from her children and beloved sister. Danny Glover is terrifying as the sadistic husband known only as "Mister". "Look at you! You're black! You're poor! You're a woman! You're nothing at all!" he hisses. Yet she refuses to be broken and gradually embarks on a journey towards dignity, happiness and a sense of self. The film was nominated for 11 Oscars, but came away empty-handed — Goldberg and Glover in particular should feel hard done by. (147min) **Joe Clay**



Eyewitness (15, 1981)
Talking Pictures TV, 10pm

William Hurt and Sigourney Weaver star in this brooding, noirish puzzler from Peter Yates, the veteran British thriller director whose first film was the 1963 Cliff Richard vehicle *Summer Holiday*. Hurt plays Daryll Deever, an introverted New York janitor who is a big fan of the tough-talking TV reporter Toni Sokolow (Weaver). He tries to get her attention by claiming to have inside information about the murder of a wealthy Vietnamese businessman killed in the offices that he cleans. As a romance develops between Deever and Sokolow, the killers become convinced that Deever really does have vital intel, and the couple become targets. The supporting cast includes Christopher Plummer, Morgan Freeman and James Woods. (108min) **JC**

Catch up

Mad Women
Channel 4

We may be familiar with some of the gasp-inducingly sexist ads from the past — women standing over sinks talking about their soft hands, men casually remarking on a woman's waistline. Fortunately times have changed and, naturally, the progress was driven by women. This is a true story of those British women who started as Peggies but became Don Drapers, trailblazers such as the fabulous Barbara Nokes, *below*, who was responsible for Nick Kamen taking his jeans off. "The arrogance of men of little account astounded me," says Nokes, who at the age of 80 is giving her first TV interview. "'F***' and 'off' were often applied," she chuckles. This sprightly film ends by analysing more recent campaigns celebrating ethnic diversity and all body shapes, for Dove soap, for example.
Ben Dowell



Regional programmes

• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** The View. News, comment and analysis from Stormont and Westminster **11.20** Question Time. Fiona Bruce hosts the political debate from Gravesend, Kent **12.20am** Newscast. Political chat **12.50-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00-10.30pm** The Peninsula Nurses (r) **11.15** Inside No 9. A couple together for nine years say their final goodbye **11.45** 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting. The FBI joins the investigation into the attack (r) **12.30am** 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting. A look at the impact on survivors (r) **1.15-1.25am** The Chronicles of Mourne (r)
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15am** Bargain Hunt (r) **Midday-1.00pm** First Minister's Questions. Coverage of questions to First Minister Humza Yousaf **7.00-7.30pm** River City (r)
• **STV As ITV1 except: 8.30-9.00pm** Scotland Tonight **10.45** A.I: What You Need to Know: Tonight. Exploring the promise and perils of artificial intelligence **11.10** Robson and Jim's Fly-Fishing Adventure. Robson Green and Jim Murray head to Scotland (r) **12.05-3.00am** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision. News, sport and weather
• **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Iain Robertson Rambles: The Hebridean Way (r) **7.30** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **8.00** Beechgrove Garden. Calum Clunie helps a new gardener to set up an allotment in Bellshill **8.30** Landward. Dougie Vipond visits Tweed Forest Park in the Borders **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Scot Squad (r) **10.30** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch. Adam leaves his home waters in search of Dover sole (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Who Are the Flat Earthers? (r)
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News **12.05pm** Natur a Ni (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **1.30** Gareth! (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Ty am Ddim (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **4.10** Pablo (r) **4.25** Misho (r) **4.35** Sam Tân (r) **4.45** Gwdihw (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Y Brodyr Adrenalini (r) **5.10** Rhyfeddodau Chwilengoch a Cath Ddu (r) **5.35** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **6.30** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Rhys returns to Cwmderi **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** News **9.00** Y Byd yn ei Le. Political discussion and debate **9.45** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Action from stage 18 **10.30** Yn y Lwp **11.00-12.05** Iaith ar Daith (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Thursday 25

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Jimmi's patient Jay takes a chance on a new relationship **2.15** Money for Nothing. A trio of utility chairs **3.00** Escape to the Country. A creative couple from London seek a new life in Gloucestershire (r) **3.45** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Nicki Chapman and Angellica Bell explore the famous horticultural event **4.30** The Repair Shop. The team restores items including a beloved sailor doll (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



A visit to Albert Square (7.30pm)

7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 EastEnders Bobby convinces Freddie to meet the specialist, and Chelsea and Denise put their fallout behind them

8.00 MasterChef The five hopefuls are asked to create a dish with ingredients that on paper should not work. They are then challenged to prepare one of acclaimed chef Jozef Youssef's technically demanding recipes

9.00 Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars After a last task at Glasgow's Ibrox Stadium, the final three face an intense grilling, as each tries to convince Gordon to back them with a £150,000 investment. Last in the series

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Question Time Fiona Bruce chairs the topical debate, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests in Gravesend, Kent, to answer questions from an invited audience

11.40 Newscast A weekly roundup from Westminster, delivering the usual mix of serious analysis and light-hearted gossip about the biggest stories

12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.15** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.30am Money for Nothing (r) **7.15** Escape to the Country (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: A Special School (r) (SL) **8.30** Caught Red Handed (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible. (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. John Craven highlights some top spots for birdwatching in the UK (r) **3.15** Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. Life on the island of Hokkaido (r) **4.15** Ancient Invisible Cities. The historical secrets of Cairo and Ancient Egypt (r) **5.15** Flog It! In Norfolk (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Mehreen Baig, Clare Balding, Jamie Laing and Mike Wozniak take part (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels though Cumbria



Dark comedy Inside No 9 (10pm)

7.00 Amol Rajan Interviews Brian Cox talks about his life, from poverty in Dundee to success in Hollywood. **See Viewing Guide**

7.45 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs Paul Murton sets sail to Loch Long (4/6) (r)

8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show The BBC gardening team present the sights and sounds of the famous event, with highlights of the gardens and tips for amateur horticulturists

9.00 Strike: Inside the Unions New series. Documentary about the wave of industrial action that engulfed the UK at the end of 2022, with union leaders including Mick Lynch and Pat Cullen. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 Inside No 9 A couple together for nine years say their final goodbye. Last in the series

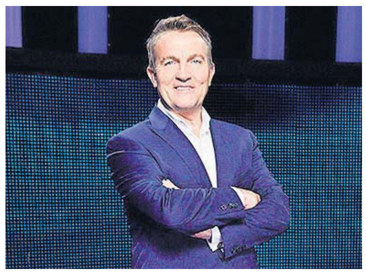
10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting The FBI joins the investigation into the attack on the 2017 Las Vegas Harvest music festival, as doctors concentrate resources on treating the wounded (3/4) (r)

12.00 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting. A look at the impact on survivors. Last in the series (r) **12.40am** Sign Zone: Dr Xand's Con or Cure (r) (SL) **1.25** Forensics: The Real CSI (r) (SL) **2.25** Iolo's Borderlands (r) (SL) **2.55-3.25** MasterChef (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. The women put the world to rights once more and invite a celebrity guest to chat about what they are up to **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. In Sheffield, David Dickinson discovers a famous name artist in the den, and Tracy Thackray-Howitt smells a profit in an old perfume bottle (r) **3.00** Tenable. Sally Lindsay hosts as five workmates from Devon attempt to answer questions about top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz **5.00** The Chase. Hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



The Chase's Bradley Walsh (5pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Manpreet gets off to an awkward start with Charles's mother, Jimmy's anguish over Tom has a terrible impact on his family, and Ryan is shocked by the arrival of a face from the past

8.30 A.I: What You Need to Know — Tonight Exploring the promise and perils of artificial intelligence. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night In this compilation of television clangers, Greg Davies is heckled by his own autocue in front of royalty, Michael Ball suffers a case of mistaken identity, and James Martin burns himself. David Walliams narrates (r)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 DNA Journey Actors Larry Lamb and Alison Steadman embark on a road trip to investigate their respective family histories using a mix of DNA and genealogy, meeting living family members they never knew existed along the way. Last in the series (r)

11.50 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage Hard-hitting wrestling action with many of AEW's biggest stars, presented by Jim Ross, Excalibur and Tony Schiavone

12.45am Teleshopping **3.00** Bling (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Family Fortunes. Game show (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. With Vick Hope **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A look at how some property purchases have worked out (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A woman seeks the perfect holiday home on the Greek island of Aegina **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A family from Manchester juggles renovations and running a holiday complex (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer borrows Mr Burns' mansion (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. DeMarcus has a tough decision to make (r)



Taskmaster's Mae Martin (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 24 Hours in A&E In an edition of the documentary focusing on fathers and sons, a 51-year-old builder is rushed into A&E after falling 18 feet from scaffolding onto concrete, while an 86-year-old retired policeman is brought in with a head injury (r)

9.00 Taskmaster With Contenders Frankie Boyle, Ivo Graham, Jenny Eclair, Kiell Smith-Bynoe and Mae Martin. It is nearly the end of the series, and the pressure is so intense that Mae immediately forgets the only rule to a task (9/10)

10.00 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Childhood sweethearts arrive at the retreat wanting to spice up their 12-year relationship with a flirtatious evening leading to intimacy in the hot tub (2/8)

11.05 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson meets a 34-year-old from Kent who runs her own business and is looking for Mr Right, and a 27-year-old trans man from Norwich who is new to the dating scene and is looking for someone special (r)

12.05am The World's Most Luxurious Holidays (r) (SL) **1.05** Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **1.55** FILM **Slender Man (15, 2018)** (SL) **3.30** Unreported World (r) **3.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **4.50** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **5.10** Great British History Hunters

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. The honeymoon period is over for Felicity (r) **2.15** FILM **Saving Billy (PG, 2021)** A woman realises that a boy has suffered a head trauma because of domestic abuse. Drama starring Anna Schafer and Nick Ballard **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. A Basil Brush lamp base is among the items which may go under the hammer **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Upper Eden Chancers try their luck against the quiz experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Towel Compoulder hope to walk away with the cash prize. Jeremy Vine hosts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Alexander Armstrong (9pm)

7.00 Jane McDonald: My Yorkshire The singer and her best friend head to North Yorkshire to take a tandem cycle tour of the picturesque market and town of Knaresborough (3/5) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Bargain Loving Brits by the Sea New series. Following the lives of the people who work in the British seaside towns of Blackpool, Scarborough and Skegness. In Skegness, a father and his daughter take their business to the next level

9.00 Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka The presenter embarks on the second leg of his adventure, beginning with a train journey to the mountain town of Haputale, where he learns about the British tea tycoon Sir Thomas Lipton (2/3)

10.00 Killer at the Crime Scene A boy survives being stabbed in the heart. While surgeons try to remove the broken blade, detectives analyse CCTV footage and search for witnesses to the attack (11/12)

11.05 Cause of Death Emergency service workers wrestle to keep a young man alive on a Lancashire road, but when his injuries prove too extreme, the coroners are called upon to find out what happened. Last in the series (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Inside the Tower of London (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.25** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.35** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.40** Thomas **5.55** Peppa Pig

Thursday 25 | Primetime digital guide



Robin Hood
Russell Crowe stars as the titular hero in Ridley Scott's medieval adventure
ITV4, 10.05pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show s
9.30 Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host gives a guide through the big stories of the day from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with an hour of debate and interviews
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the topics everybody is talking about
10.00 First Edition
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (5/6)
8.00 MOTDx Football discussion
8.30 MOTD Top 10: Dark Arts
9.00 Bad Education Unconventional teacher Alfie becomes distracted from his work by the news that colleague Miss Gulliver is now single. First episode of the comedy starring Jack Whitehall (1/6)
9.30 Bad Education Fraser is determined to prove that he is fully prepared for the arrival of French exchange students (2/6)
10.00 Black Ops Dom comes up with a devious plan to get the cash needed to pay off the Brightmarsh Gang (3/6)
10.30 Man Like Mobeen A drug deal goes wrong (3/5)
10.55 Man Like Mobeen (4/5)
11.20 Man Like Mobeen (5/5)
11.40-12.10am Squad Goals: Britain's Youngest Football Boss (5/6)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Railways: The Making of a Nation Examining class divisions on trains (6/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Norman engineering techniques (1/6)
8.00 A House Through Time David Olusoga traces the house's fortunes in the 18th and 19th centuries (2/4)
9.00 Whoopi Goldberg: This Cultural Life Whoopi Goldberg reveals the most important influences that shaped her career
9.30 FILM The Color Purple (15, 1985) Steven Spielberg's drama based on Alice Walker's novel starring Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover, Oprah Winfrey, Margaret Avery and Willard E Pugh. **See Film Choice**
11.55-12.55am Italy's Invisible Cities Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott explore Venice (2/3)

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY Adam views a second property on the slopes of the Pyrenees (12/15)
7.55 Grand Designs Identical twins build two near-identical houses next door to each other in Sheffield, paying tribute to the city's industrial past
9.00 Great British Dog Walks with Phil Spencer New series. The property guru and his German short-haired pointer puppy take to the country alongside. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)
10.00 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations George meets a Staffordshire couple who have bought a 19th-century coach house (2/6)
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E Patients include a 54-year-old man involved in a cycling accident

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm True Blood Bill and Eric are interrogated for information about a rogue faction of vampires, while Lafayette and Sookie deal with the consequences of their decision (2/12) (R)
7.50 Game of Thrones Joffrey stands up to his grandfather, Daenerys discovers if she is seen as a conqueror or liberator, and mercy comes from a surprising source on Dragonstone (10/10) (R)
9.00 Billions Axe looks into who caused a breakdown in his dealings in Sandicot, but faces formidable opposition, while Chuck digs up dirt on a political rival (8/12) (R)
10.05 Billions Lara plans a lavish birthday celebration for Axe, while Wendy deliberates her invitation (9/12) (R)
11.15-12.15am Gangs of London The Wallaces are forced to go into hiding (8/9) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm The Lady and the Dale Liz and her family are busy running a roadside flower business outside of Austin, Texas when she is exposed by a true crime television show and things begin to spiral once again (4/4) (R)
7.55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed Oliver Stone's documentary exploring the Kennedy assassination, and questioning the actions of the President's political enemies (4/4) (R)
9.00 I Am Paul Walker Documentary exploring the life and legacy of American actor Paul Walker, who rose to fame for his role in the *Fast and Furious* franchise, but died at the age of 40 after a car crash (R)
10.50-11.50 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary about the assassination of Olof Palme (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Glenn and his wife Jerusha hold a gender reveal party at the store
7.30 Superstore
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Gordon, Gino and Fred: European Road Trip Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix cook oysters in France (2/3)
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30-12.25am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat A dispute between a teacher and a farmer gets out of hand, and romance is in the air for Bellamy and Gina
8.00 Vera DCI Stanhope is called out to a grim scene when a body is found in the back of a burnt-out car and the victim is identified as a popular local GP
10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood A killer targets homeless men in a series of ritualised murders that leaves Tony and his new partner DI Andy Hall little to work on (7&8/8)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm BattleBots Minotaur continues its quest for the title in an epic fight with Blacksmith
8.00 The Great British Treasure Hunt Henry Cole and the teams are in Hutton in the Forest in Cumbria and in spite of bad conditions, they still make some amazing finds (4/5)
9.00 No Room for Error There is a scare for one of the riders
10.05-11.05pm FILM Robin Hood (12, 2010) Ridley Scott's medieval adventure starring Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett and Mark Strong

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Felix is hurt knowing that DeMarcus blames him for ending up in hospital
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht Jenna and Adam pick up the pieces of Madison and Ciara's botched beach picnic
9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox With the detox coming to a close, the final stage is all about peace. Last in the series
10.00 Gogglebox
11.05-12.10am First Dates

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of the quiz
8.20 Room 101 Comic panel show
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You The actress Anna Maxwell Martin hosts an extended edition
10.00 Meet the Richardsons It's Jon's 40th birthday and Lucy has loads of surprises planned, including a cooking lesson with chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstal
10.40 Mock the Week Panel show
11.20 Mock the Week Panel show
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine A solicitor's letter terrifies Tom
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine A promotion causes problems
8.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators A series of 'accidents' on a psychic TV show
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Frank and Lu must track down a vital witness in a crown court trial. Crime comedy
10.00 New Tricks The 16-year-old case of a political aide's murder
11.20-1.25am Silent Witness

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain Severn Valley railway (9/13)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain A traditional chain-maker (10/13)
8.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics The team restore a 1988 Golf GTI Convertible (3/6)
9.00 Classic Car Garage Colin and the team welcome a Lincoln Continental to the garage (6/10)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (8/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (10/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.55pm Grand Tours of Scotland Dunnet Head in Caithness (2/6)
7.30 Australia in Colour How work and industry have transformed Australia and its identity (4/4)
8.35 WWII in Color: Road to Victory Documentary. Hitler must deliver a knockout blow to regain the initiative against Stalin
9.45 The Ghost Army How a US Army unit used inflatable tanks
10.55 Australia in Colour (4/4)
12.00-1.15am WWII in Color: Road to Victory Documentary series

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: Gary Cooper Life of the Hollywood icon (10/14)
8.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir With broadcaster Chris Packham in Lancashire (6/6)
9.00 The Directors The life and work of Robert Aldrich (10/10)
10.00 Discovering Westerns on Film Critics examine the origins and evolution of the movie genre, from the early days to the present
11.30-2.00am Eric Clapton: Concert by the Lake: Band du Lac A 2005 concert by the guitarist

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire Weapons
8.00 Storage Wars Double bill
9.00 A Cut Above The stakes escalate as things get wet and wild during a water-feature challenge
10.00 Dirty Old Cars New series. Reality series following the staff of three different detailing shops
10.30 Dirty Old Cars A filthy minivan must be scrubbed, decontaminated and sanitised
11.00 Counting Cars A Corvette
12.00-1.00am Secret Wars Uncovered A 1985 bombing

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 The team discovers a Goa'uld-human hybrid
8.00 Rob & Romesh vs Andy Murray Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan meet the tennis star before being pushed to their limits in a training session (4/7)
9.00 Last King of the Cross John recovers from his stab wounds and begins to turn his dreams of being a nightclub owner into a reality (2/10)
10.05 Fantasy Island (5/10)
11.05-12.05am Resident Alien

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation
8.00 Car S.O.S.: Ultimate Countdown Tim and Fuzz share their favourite quirky and rare cars
9.00 Wicked Tuna New series. The battle to become the Greatest Of All Time kicks into high gear
10.00 Lawless Island Tim Leech finally tears out the deathtrap decking outside his front door
11.00 Nazi Sunken Sub The 1945 disappearance of a Nazi submarine
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary series

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Kindig Customs A Camaro
8.00 Gold Divers Veteran diver Bob battles strong currents
9.00 Naked and Afraid: Solo New series. Survivalists endure 21 days in extreme locations alone
10.00 Naked and Afraid All-stars Fernando and Dani make a return
12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Sick of It (2/6)
7.30 Young Rock (10/13)
8.00 The Conners Double bill
8.30 The Office (US) Sitcom
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm The Blacks prepare to move (10/10)
9.40 Curb Your Enthusiasm
10.50 And Just Like That... (6/10)
11.30-12.10am Barry (6/8)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 David O'Doherty: Comedy Central Live A stand-up special
9.30 Jimmy Carr: Comedy Central Live 2 A stand-up performance
10.00 Digman! Rip is undercover
10.30 Mike Judge's Beavis & Butt-Head Beavis tries yoga pants
11.00-12.00am Reno 911!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Open All Hours Arkwright decides to make his own product
7.40 Dad's Army Double bill
9.00 dinnerladies Petula's bizarre lifestyle catches up with her
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.20 Mrs Brown's Boys
11.00 The Office Comedy series
11.40-12.20am The Office

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

6.00pm MasterChef Australia
7.35 Inside the Ambulance
8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build Ireland Baz Ashmawy and his team renovate the home of a nurse
9.00 24 Hours in A&E
10.00 999 Rescue Squad
11.00-12.10am Louis Theroux Twilight of the Porn Stars

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest (10/13)
8.00 Father Brown (1/10)
9.00 Murdoch Mysteries Ogden is sentenced to three years in prison
10.00 Whiskey Cavalier (1/13)
11.00 Without a Trace Drama
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Comedy detective drama (6/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

12.30pm Live DP World Tour Golf: The KLM Open Coverage of day one from Bernardus Golf in Cromvoirt, the Netherlands
5.30 Live PGA Tour Golf The Charles Schwab Challenge
7.00 Live Premier League: Manchester United v Chelsea (Kick-off **8.00**). From Old Trafford
11.00pm-12.00m't Live PGA Tour Golf: The Charles Schwab Challenge From Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Basketball

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Live Premier League: Manchester United v Chelsea (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the top-flight match from Old Trafford. United have enjoyed a much stronger campaign than their opponents and will be hopeful of making home advantage count this evening
11.00 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a Premier League star
11.30-12.00m't PL Highlights Action from Brighton v Man City



Padraig Harrington defends his title at the latest PGA tour event (Sky Main Event, 5.30pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

6.00pm Live T20 Blast Cricket: Middlesex v Surrey Coverage of the South Group match from Lord's, London
9.45 T20 Blast 2006 Leicestershire Foxes v Notts Outlaws in the final
10.00 T20 Blast Cricket Worcestershire Rapids v Essex Eagles in the final at Edgbaston
11.00 Ashes Memories Michael Atherton shares his experiences of playing against Australia
11.40-12.00m't Best of England v Australia The 2009 test

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

6.00pm Live MLB: Tampa Bay Rays v Toronto Blue Jays (Start-time **6.10**). Coverage of the American League match
9.30 BT Sport Reload
10.00 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a star
10.30 ESPN FC Presents: Gab & Juls All the latest news and gossip
11.00 Ligue 1 Show
11.30 Classic Ligue 1
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: New York Yankees v Baltimore Orioles (Start-time **12.05**)

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.00pm Premier League Stories
7.30 Premier League Reload
7.45 BT Sport Goals Reload
8.00 The Football's On
9.00-12.30am Live MLB: Washington Nationals v San Diego Padres (Start-time **9.05**). Coverage of the National League match from Nationals Park
2.30-10.30am Live Badminton Coverage of the quarter-finals at the Malaysia Masters, which takes place at Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Thursday 25

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am The Running Man (PG, 1963) Drama with Alan Bates and Laurence Harvey **1.10pm Tobruk (PG, 1967)** Second World War adventure starring Rock Hudson **3.25 Hatari! (U, 1962)** Comedy adventure starring John Wayne and Red Buttons **6.35 Gods of Egypt (12, 2016)** Fantasy adventure starring Nikolaj Coster-Waldau **9.00 Men in Black II (PG, 2002)** Sci-fi comedy with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones **10.45-12.35am Shallow Grave (18, 1994)** Thriller starring Ewan McGregor and Christopher Eccleston

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Honey West 6.30 Derek Fowlds: A Part Well Played 7.10 Holy Matrimony (U, 1943) Comedy starring Gracie Fields **9.00 Black Saddle 9.30 Murder in Soho (U, 1939)** Drama starring Jack La Rue **10.50 A Doll's House (PG, 1973)** Drama starring Claire Bloom and Anthony Hopkins **12.40pm The March Hare (U, 1956)** Racing comedy starring Peggy Cummins, Terence Morgan and Cyril Cusack **2.20 Look at Life 2.30 Crown Court 3.00 Stowaway (PG, 1957)** Drama starring Trevor Howard and Elsa Martinelli **4.50 The Queen of Spades (PG, 1949)** Horror drama starring Anton Walbrook **6.35 The Switch (U, 1963)** Crime drama with Anthony Steel and Zena Marshall **8.00 The Saint 9.00 Justice 10.00-12.05am Eyewitness (15, 1981)** Thriller starring William Hurt and Sigourney Weaver. **See Film Choice**

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am A Focus to Kill (12, 2018) Thriler starring Linsey Godfrey and Tilky Jones **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 Eat, Drink and Be Buried: A Gourmet Detective Mystery (PG, 2017)** Whodunit starring Dylan Neal **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 The Deadly Room: Garage Sale Mystery III (12, 2015)** Crime drama with Lori Loughlin and Brendan Meyer **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Home Is Where the Killer Is (PG, 2019)** Thriller starring Kelly Kruger **4.50 The Many Faces of Alice (PG, 2016)** Thriller with Anna Lise Philips and Kevin Ryan **6.40 Where Angels Fear to Tread (PG, 1991)** Period drama starring Helena Bonham Carter and Judy Davis


Ewan McGregor in Shallow Grave (Film4, 10.45pm)

9.00 Terminal Velocity (15, 1994) Action thriller starring Charlie Sheen **11.10-1.35am The Mexican (15, 2001)** Comedy thriller with Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.05am Torpedo Run (U, 1958) Second World War adventure starring Glenn Ford and Ernest Borgnine **8.05 Cavalry Scout (U, 1951)** Western starring Rod Cameron and Audrey Long **9.45 Guns for San Sebastian (PG, 1968)** Western drama starring Anthony Quinn and Anjanette Comer **12.00 Wagons West (U, 1952)** Western starring Rod Cameron and Frank Ferguson **1.30pm Apache War Smoke (U, 1952)** Western with Gilbert Roland and Glenda Farrell **3.00 One of Our Spies is Missing (U, 1966)** Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum **4.55 The Wrong Man (PG, 1956)** Alfred Hitchcock's fact-based drama with Henry Fonda and Vera Miles **7.05 Murder Ahoy (U, 1964)** Agatha Christie mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **9.00 Lethal Weapon 3 (15, 1992)** Action thriller with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover **11.25-1.55am Magnum Force (18, 1973)** Action thriller sequel starring Clint Eastwood and Hal Holbrook

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.05pm The Voyagers (PG, 2022) Fantasy adventure starring Matteo Schiavone **2.10 Vengeance (15, 2022)** Mystery drama starring BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **4.15 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong **6.05 Alone Together (15, 2022)** Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **8.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **10.10-12.15am Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Kate McCann and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast. Ed Vaizey and Mary Ann Sieghart discuss the day's news **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. With guest Lorraine Candy **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** Country Show **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti Gyorgy Ligeti's process of writing music is explored **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Clare Hammond performs at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Montgeroult (Etudes Nos. 62, 66, 101, 107); Beethoven (Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13 — *Pathetique*); Coleridge-Taylor (*Deep River* from *24 Negro Melodies*, Op. 59 No. 10) and Albeniz (*Cadiz, Evocacion and Triana* from *Iberia Suite 1908*) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** The Malmo Symphony Orchestra perform the first act of Hugo Alfvén's ballet-pantomime, *The Mountain King*, with conductor Patrik Ringborg **5.00 In Tune** Keelan Carew shares his highlights of cultural events for the weekend **7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra perform at City Halls, Glasgow. Strauss (*Till Eulenspiegel*); Cheryl Frances-Hoad (Cello Concerto) and Elgar (Symphony No 2) **10.00 Free Thinking** A conversation looking at how our understanding of smell and of sneezing has changed. **10.45 The Essay: Death in Trieste** The mysteries and realities of the murder of Johann Winckelmann **11.00 The Night Tracks Mix 11.30 Unclassified** (r) **12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

In Our Time
Radio 4, 9am
The eventful and very long reign of Louis XIV, *right*, and Versailles excess is the subject today. Known as the Sun King because of his personal emblem (and a rather important celestial object), he spent 72 years and 110 days on the throne of France (between 1643 and 1715), which puts even Queen Elizabeth II in the shade, at 70 years and 214 days. Melvyn Bragg's guests are Catriona Seth, professor of French literature at the University of Oxford; Penny Roberts, associate professor in history at the University of Warwick; and Guy Rowlands, professor of history at the University of St Andrews. Ben Dowell



Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 In Our Time** The history of ideas. **See Choice 9.45 Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** Written by Naoíse Mac Sweeney (4/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 From Our Own Correspondent** New series **11.30 Great Lives** (r) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 You and Yours 12.30 Sliced Bread 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Taking Issue with Shakespeare** Exploring the kind of monarchy most likely to unite the nation **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Nightmare(ish)** By Ollie George Clark **3.00 Ramblings 3.27 Radio 4 Appeal** (r) **3.30 Open Book** (r) **4.00 Princess** The complex life of Princess Margaret **4.30 BBC Inside Science 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 It's a Fair Cop** (4/4) (r) **7.00 The Archers** Oliver makes a surprising offer **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 Law in Action** (r) **8.30 The Patch** (r) **9.00 BBC Inside Science** (r) **9.30 In Our Time** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (9/10) **11.00 Rylan: How to Be a Man** Amir Khan talks to Rylan **11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** (4/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Sport: The Euro Leagues Podcast **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Manchester United v Chelsea (Kick-off 8.00) **10.00** Sports Bar. Analysis **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am The Burkiss Way **8.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **9.00** Booked **9.30** Clare in the Community **10.00** The Prisoner **11.00** Who Killed Zebedee? **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** In My Mind's Eye **12.15pm** Dead Cert **12.30** On the Rocks **1.00** The Burkiss Way **1.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **2.00** Booked **2.30** Clare in the Community **3.00** The Prisoner **4.00** Who Killed Zebedee? **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** In My Mind's Eye **5.15** Dead Cert **5.30** On the Rocks **6.00** The Burkiss Way. Comedy with Nigel Rees **6.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **7.00** Booked **7.30** Clare in the Community **8.00** Writing: The Midlands **9.00** Great Lives. Profile of actor Peter Cushing **9.30** Ruth Rendell Stories **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson **10.00** Comedy Club: It's a Fair Cop **10.30** Tom Wrigglesworth's Hang-Ups **11.00** Ida Barr: Artificial Hip Hop **11.15** Political Animals **11.30** Rigor Mortis

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Assignment **10.00** News **10.06** The Science Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Food Chain **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Healthcheck **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** The Inquiry **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** Assignment **8.30** Science in Action **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Inquiry. The trends, forces and ideas shaping the world **10.30** The Food Chain **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Science Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Tech Tent **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Heart and Soul

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **6.00** Steve Lamacq's Roundtable. With Lily Fontaine, Baxter Dury and Don Letts **7.00** Tom Robinson **9.00** Amy Lamé **12.00** New Music Fix with Steve Lamacq **1.00am** New Music Fix with Mary Anne Hobbs

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics. With Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Friday 26 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Poker Face

Sky Max/Now, 9pm

You might consider cheerful case-of-the-week crime-mystery shows (think *Columbo* or *Bergerac*) to be the TV of yesteryear, or perhaps the reserve of daytime TV. But Rian Johnson, the director who gave us *Knives Out* and *Glass Onion*, has other ideas. His big new series is about a dishevelled sleuth solving a head-scratching murder each week. She is Charlie Cale, played by Natasha Lyonne, *right*, and when it comes to a USP — because every small-screen crime-cracker has to have a thing — she has three. First of all, she has Lyonne's distinctively raspy Noo Yoik voice and bushy hair. Second, she has a cool car (well, perhaps that's not so unique, but anyway, Cale's is a blue Plymouth Barracuda). Third, she is a human lie detector. "Everyone lies constantly," she explains. "It's like birds chirping — once you tune into it, it's everywhere. The real trick is working out *why* they're lying." She is not a cop or a PI; we meet her working in a casino, where the big boss (Adrien Brody) has noticed her special ability. He's also responsible for a murder that we see in the opening scenes, and our accidental sleuth is soon onto him. It means that she's eventually on the run, setting a pattern — wherever she turns up each week there's a new crime to solve. The series is stuffed to the gills with big-name stars popping up for one week only, among them Nick Nolte, Ellen Barkin and Joseph Gordon-Levitt. But Lyonne is the star attraction — funny and less acerbic than she was in the Netflix hit *Russian Doll* — in a slick, if oddly meandering spin on the *Columbo*s of old. **James Jackson**



Louis Armstrong's Little Satchmo

PBS America, 7.25pm

When Louis Armstrong died in 1971 he was thought to have been childless, even impotent. But in fact he did have a child, Sharon Preston-Folta, a result of a 20-year affair with a nightclub singer. Yet for him, "publicly fawning over a child sired with his mistress wasn't exactly an option". In this intimate film Preston-Folta talks about her experience of Armstrong; he provided for the family financially, but they lived a lonely existence, longing for his rare secret visits. It's deeply personal and reveals the private man behind the caricaturish public image. **JJ**

Hidden Treasures of the National Trust

BBC2, 9pm

After two weeks of majestic manors, this episode visits a council house in Liverpool. Why? Because 20 Forthlin Road is where Paul McCartney grew up, and where he and John Lennon wrote some of their earliest hits — *I Saw Her Standing There* was knocked together in the living room. When the Trust took it on in 1995 they recreated the style of that time. Experts try to restore a key section of wallpaper — helped by McCartney's brother, Mike McGear, offering some fresh insights. **JJ**

I Killed My Husband

More4, 9pm

This French crime mystery set in Rochefort starts with Anna, a seemingly devoted wife and mother, confessing to the murder of her devoted husband. "I am a monster," she declares to the police interviewer. What went so catastrophically wrong in this family's outwardly picture-perfect lifestyle? Yes, a can of worms is soon gradually opened. The viewer's sympathies stay with Anna, however, and things get worse for her when on the first day of her trial a bombshell revelation makes her realise that her child is in grave danger. **JJ**

Sister Boniface Mysteries

Drama, 9pm

The *Father Brown* spin-off series returns, the first episode opening with a well-recreated evocation of a 1950s children's show — a pastiche of *Blue Peter*, with three smiling presenters and Bill the puppet pirate showing how to make jelly. Murder follows, naturally, and the moped-riding nun-sleuth of the title is soon working out who slaughtered the show's matriarchal producer. All very plausible. Just a touch above daytime TV, this featherlight, mildly amusing mystery series feels almost like Enid Blyton's version of *Grantchester*. **JJ**

Films of the day

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)
Sky Cinema Premiere/Now, 3.55pm

Javier Bardem, *below*, steals the show in this saccharine musical adaptation of Bernard Waber's children's book about a New York crocodile and the family he befriends. In this version Lyle can express himself only through pop songs (vocals by the Canadian artist Shawn Mendes), written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the composers of *The Greatest Showman*. Lyle sings of growth and empowerment while bonding with young Josh Primm (Winslow Fegley) and teaching his mother (Constance Wu) that being creative is better than being normal. Bardem appears as a dubious magician called Hector P Valenti, Lyle's mentor. He appears to have escaped from a Coen brothers film and has a haircut as ridiculous as the bob from *No Country for Old Men*. (106min) **Kevin Maher**



The Photograph
BBC1, 12.25am

LaKeith Stanfield broods magnificently as Michael, a journalist writing a story on a dead photographer who crosses paths with the woman's daughter, Mae (Issa Rae), a curator in New York. Sparks fly, and why wouldn't they? Michael and Mae look fabulous and ooze cool. Yet Stella Meghie, the director of this rather superficial romantic drama, relies too heavily on her stars' gorgeousness, along with atmospheric light and moody jazz and soul. It's a beguiling combination at first, but the surrounding story can be clunky. There are regular flashbacks to the Eighties, of Mae's mother and the man she loved in Louisiana, and some soapy dialogue: "At some point you're gonna have to realise she was just a woman — with flaws." **Ed Potton**

Catch up

Aberdeen '83: Once in a Lifetime
BBC iPlayer

Forty years ago Alex Ferguson guided Aberdeen FC to glory in the European Cup Winners' Cup. His side beat Real Madrid 2-1 in the final on a puddle-strewn pitch in Gothenburg, having knocked out Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals. This archive-rich celebration of the "Gothenburg Greats" recounts a true underdog success story with contributions from Ferguson, the players (*below*, including Gordon Strachan and Alex McLeish, two future managers of the Scottish national team) and fans. "The raw energy in that dressing room was frightening," Strachan said in 2013. "If you could have turned that into electricity you could have powered the whole of the north of Scotland." **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 8.00-8.30pm** Wynne's Welsh 70s. Wynne Evans focuses on events recorded by BBC Wales during 1973
• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 8.00-8.30pm** Feed Yourself Fitter with Stephen Nolan. No-nonsense chef Brian McCann tempts the host with a seasonal platter **11.25** Question of Sport. With Ethan Pinnock, Hollie Pearne-Webb, Richard Kilty and Tonia Couch **11.55-12.25am** Bump. Reema returns from London, but Oly is distracted
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15-12.15pm** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **8.00-8.30pm** Landward. Dougie Vipond visits Tweed Forest Park in the Borders (r) **11.25** Question of Sport **11.55** Bump **12.25am** Bump **12.55 FILM The Photograph (2020) 2.35** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.40-6.00am** BBC News
• **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** Backstage. Nest Jenkins hears from world-renowned painter Kevin Sinnott, and reporter Mike Griffiths meets musician H Hawkline
• **STV As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** What's on Scotland **10.30-10.45** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
• **UTV As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** UTV Life. A mix of stories and studio guests
• **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.30** Live Sportscene Premiership Play-off. Ayr United v Queens Park or Partick Thistle (Kick-off **7.45**) **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** Limmy's Homemade Show (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Selling Scotland (r)
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **12.00** News **12.05pm** Bois y Rhondda (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Welsh Whisperer: Ni'n Teithio Nawr! (r) **1.30** Y Sioe Fwyd (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Symud i Gymru (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Caru Canu a Stori (r) **4.10** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **4.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Ar Goll yn Oz (r) **5.20** Y Doniolis (r) **5.30** Bernard (r) **5.35** Cic (r) **5.45** Ffeil **6.00** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr. A bird's eye view from the River Cleddau to Trefin (r) **6.30** Garddio a Mwy. Meinir Gwilym re-designs parts of the garden in Pant y Wennol (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Highlights of stage 19 **8.55** News **9.00** Canu gyda Fy Arwr. Rhys Meirion is joined by Osian Williams and his band, Candelas (r) **10.00** Ffit Cymru. The leaders share their final weightloss transformation (r) **11.00-11.35** Cymry ar Gynfas. Steve 'Pablo' Jones paints a portrait of Aled Jones (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

TV newsletter

Sign up to our TV bulletin offering the best TV and film tips, direct to your inbox every Friday. The newsletter covers the TV Editor's pick of box sets to stream, along with tips on the best programmes and films around. To start receiving it, digital subscribers can go to thetimes.co.uk/bulletins and tick the box next to "Television".

Friday 26

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Hope Street. The police officers investigate a daring robbery. Last in the series (r) **2.30** Money for Nothing. Old lamps and a display cabinet (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Jonnie Irwin helps an Essex couple find a new home in North Yorkshire (r) **3.45** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Nicki Chapman and Angellica Bell explore the event **4.30** The Repair Shop. The team restores a mosaic table (r) **5.15** Pointless. Stephen Mangan joins Alexander Armstrong as co-host (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Black Ops continues (9.30pm)

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift explore the famous horticultural event

8.00 Question of Sport With Ethan Pinnock, Hollie Pearne-Webb, Richard Kilty and Tonia Couch

8.30 MasterChef In this semi-final, the contestants' latest brief is to cook a dish both "theatrical and fantastical" in nature

9.00 Have I Got News for You Steph McGovern hosts, with guests Carol Vorderman and Nabil Abdulrashid (7/10)

9.30 Black Ops Dom and Kay track down a potential undercover contact (4/6)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show Husband-and-wife duo Chris and Rosie poke fun at life with guests (3/6)

11.25 Bump Reema returns from London, but Oly is distracted. While Keeks accidently sees Santi with Jacinda (3/10)

11.55 Bump Bernardita seems to be the cause of all problems (4/10)

12.25am FILM The Photograph (12, 2020) Drama starring Issa Rae and LaKeith Stanfield. **See Film Choice** **2.05** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.10** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics UK **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain (r) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Marcus Wareing visits an expert herb grower in Bristol (r) **3.15** Big Cats About the House. Following the work of big cat expert Giles Clark (r) **4.15** Ancient Invisible Cities. Michael Scott reveals the historical secrets of ancient Athens (r) **5.15** Flog It! From London (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Mehreen Baig, Clare Balding, Jamie Laing and Mike Wozniak take part (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo visits the home of William Wordsworth



Paul McCartney's brother, Mike (9pm)

7.00 Beechgrove Garden Calum Clunie helps a new gardener to set up an allotment in Bellshill

7.30 Villages by the Sea Ben discovers more about the quiet village of Ravenglass in the Lake District's National Park (r)

8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show The BBC gardening team present the sights and sounds of the famous events, with highlights of the gardens and tips for amateur horticulturists

9.00 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust The curators continue their restoration of Paul McCartney's childhood home in Liverpool, and uncover a historic collection of photos a few miles away in a Georgian house. **See Viewing Guide** (3/6)

10.00 Detectorists Andy and Lance have one last day on the farm to find the gold (6/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight The day's important national and international news stories. With Victoria Derbyshire

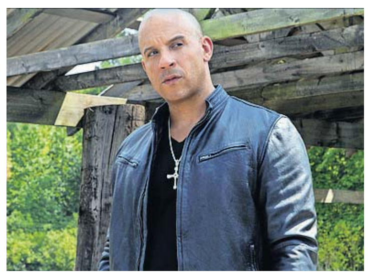
11.05 MOTDx Football discussion presented by Jermaine Jenas (r)

11.35 Strike: Inside the Unions Documentary about the wave of industrial action that engulfed the UK in 2022 (r)

12.35am Sign Zone: Landfill: Britain's Toxic Secrets: Panorama. Current affairs report (r) (SL) **1.05** The Mysterious Mr Lagerfeld. A profile of fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld (r) (SL) **2.35-3.35** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. In Nottingham's Albert Hall, David Dickinson and his dealers set up stall, and Henry Nicholls flexes his spending muscles on a collection of hero comics (r) **3.00** Tenable. Five university friends join forces to take on the Tenable tower, answering questions about top 10 lists, then trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Sally Lindsay hosts (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Vin Diesel stars (10.45pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Charles's mother takes every opportunity to hurt Manpreet's feelings off the back of yesterday's complaints

8.00 Coronation Street An anxious Paul delays his appearance in court, while Billy confides in Dee-Dee how worried he is about his partner. Roy is brought up short with chest pains during a walk, prompting Evelyn to call an ambulance

9.00 Beat the Chasers: Celebrity Special Bradley Walsh hosts as Omid Djalili, Richard Whitehead, Jenny Eclair and Clive Mantle take on the six quiz experts, hoping to win big money for their chosen charities (6/7) (r)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 FILM Fast & Furious 7 (12, 2015) After defeating Owen Shaw and his crew and securing amnesty for their past crimes, Dom, Brian and the rest of the team return home to live normal lives again. However Shaw's older brother Deckard — a rogue special forces assassin vows revenge on Dom, who he holds responsible for leaving Owen in a coma. Action thriller sequel starring Vin Diesel, Jason Statham and Paul Walker

1.00am Teleshopping **3.00** Million Pound Pawn (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen. A culinary tour of Dominica (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A retired Derbyshire couple want a holiday home in Alicante (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A woman and her son look for a holiday home on Spain's Costa del Sol **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A derelict building in a French village gets a new lease of life. Last in the series (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Bart is referred to a therapist (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Felix is hurt knowing that DeMarcus blames him for ending up in hospital (r)



Gogglebox's Giles and Mary (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 The Big Interiors Battle Judge Dara Huang pushes the final three designers even further out of their comfort zone, sending them to deal with a multi-use common room space that needs much to fit in better with its surroundings (6/8)

9.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions and the lively discussions that are prompted by the week's biggest and best shows

10.00 The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan The Bafta-nominated comedian and actor chews the fat with guests including actor Adrian Lester and Eurovision superstar Sam Ryder. Plus, exciting games, hilarious sketches and performances

11.05 Sean Lock: Keep It Light The *8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown* captain captured live on stage in a stand-up performance, talking about everything from the price of cinema food, to accusations of him having a mid-life crisis (r)

12.10am FILM Crawl (15, 2019) Horror thriller starring Kaya Scodelario **1.40** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **2.25** Come Dine with Me (r) **4.40** Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds (r) **5.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **5.15** Great British History Hunters (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Ava and Theo resolve their issues (r) **2.15** FILM **Secret Stalker: Abducting Lacy (PG, TVM, 2019)** A young mother is cyber-stalked by a stranger who claims to be the biological mother of her adopted daughter. Thriller starring Bree Williamson **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. A slide rule is among the possible choices in the final West Midlands challenge **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Shuttle Watchers take on the Eggheads (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Afflicted challenge the trivia experts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Celebrating Ken Dodd (9pm)

7.00 Jane McDonald: My Yorkshire The singer heads to Scarborough, where she used to go on family day trips when she was growing up (4/5) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out Susan travels to the south coast of Wales to visit the Gower peninsula, Cardiff Castle and the National Botanic Garden. Plus, a unique game of Welsh baseball (3/12)

9.00 Ken Dodd: 60 Years of Laughter A celebration of the comedian, who was embraced by the emerging TV age, while always keeping alive the old-school comedy of the music hall. Through his routines, interviews and one-liners, the programme examines the career of this student of comedy, who was also a highly successful recording artist (r)

11.00 FILM True Lies (15, 1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis and Tom Arnold

1.30am Teleshopping **3.30** Inside the Tower of London. Cameras follow a new recruit for the Beefeaters (r) **4.20** OMG! Boy Beauty Addicts (r) (SL) **5.05** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45** Thomas (r) (SL)

Friday 26 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat



Cilla Black
Cilla at the BBC is a collection of archive performances by the singer
BBC4, 9pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 Jeremy Kyle Political panel debates and interviews
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides viewers through the big stories of the day
7.00 Plank of the Week
8.00 Friday Night with Nadine Nadine Dorries presents her take on the week with a mix of guests from the world of politics, culture and sport
9.00 What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan The host wraps up another week in the world of news
9.30 The Royal Tea
10.00 The Best of the Talk A panel of guests debate the topics everybody's talking about
11.00-12.00m't Friday Night with Nadine Discussion

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (6/6)
8.00 Scotland and Beyond An engineer undertakes the most important job of her career (8/10)
8.30 Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond (9/10)
9.00 FILM Eighth Grade (15, 2018) Introverted 13-year-old Kayla tries to make it through the last week of a disastrous year in eighth grade before starting high school. Comedy drama starring Elsie Fisher, and Emily Robinson
10.30 I Kissed a Boy (3/8)
11.15 I Kissed a Boy (4/8)
12.00-1.00am Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The MUAs are joined by singer-songwriter Cat Burns as they go live on TikTok to showcase as many make-up tricks as they can with just one product to impress beauty CEO, P Louise (4/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Top of the Pops Music by Cyndi Lauper, Madonna, Bon Jovi, Take That, Elton John and Inxs
7.30 Top of the Pops Music by PJ & Duncan, Gloria Estefan, Sting and Take That
8.00 Top of the Pops Featuring Debbie Harry, Genesis, Japan, Soft Cell, Duran Duran and Madness
8.30 Top of the Pops Music from 1979 by Roxy Music, ELO, David Bowie and Blondie
9.00 Cilla at the BBC Memorable appearances by Cilla Black
10.00 Sounds of the Sixties With Sandie Shaw
10.30 Dusty Entertainment showcase with Dusty Springfield and Mel Torme
10.55 Lulu's Back in Town Archive performances by the Scottish singer
11.20-12.20am Sir Cliff Richard at the BBC Archive performances by the singer

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY A couple struggle with the upkeep of their 300-year-old family home (13/15)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows the progress of a commercial architect and his art-director wife as they try to build the ultimate family home, inspired by a farm shed
9.00 I Killed My Husband New series. A distraught woman, under her toxic husband's influence for years, snaps after yet another feud. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)
10.00 I Killed My Husband Anna tries to keep control of the situation she has plunged into. Haunting crime drama with Erika Sainte. In French (2/6)
11.05-12.10am 24 Hours in A&E A 53-year-old man is rushed into hospital with severe chest and lung injuries

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Bill and Eric hunt for Russell Edgington, while Jason finds out a secret about the death of his parents (4/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Tyrion is sent to greet a royal party from Dorne, while Jon Snow finds himself on trial at Castle Black (1/10) (R)
9.00 Souls During the rehearsals for the commemoration of the crash of flight 2205, Jacob causes a scene. In German (3/8) (R)
10.00 Souls Linn says goodbye to her mother, Jacob is treated by a teenage psychologist, and Allie begins to accept her situation (4/8) (R)
11.00-12.05am Yellowjackets Misty prepares to welcome a surprise house guest, and the group must navigate love, lust and DIY surgery. Drama with Juliette Lewis and Christina Ricci (6/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King The rise and fall of the former Spanish King Juan Carlos I, who modernised his nation after the Franco regime, but was later forced to abdicate and flee into exile (1/4) (R)
8.00 Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King Charting the rise and fall of the former Spanish monarch, who helped transform Spain into a modern European state (2/4) (R)
9.00 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary in which former diplomat Jan Stocklassa investigates the assassination of prime minister of Sweden Olof Palme in 1986 (2/4) (R)
10.00-12.15am Mr Dynamite: The Rise of James Brown The career of the American funk-soul singer, who died in 2006 (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Amy and Jonah rally their colleagues to confront the CEO at a meeting
7.30 Superstore Amy and Jonah return from suspension
8.00 Bob's Burgers Bob offers to help Gene with a school project
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 FILM Bad Neighbours 2 (15, 2016) Comedy starring Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne
10.55 Family Guy
11.20 Family Guy
11.50-12.20am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Heartbeat A local church suffers a series of thefts
8.00 Doc Martin Mrs Tishell decides she can no longer hide her love and takes drastic action (8/8)
9.00 Doc Martin Portwenn is buzzing with excitement as the Doc and Louisa's day arrives (1/8)
10.00 Scott & Bailey First episode of the detective drama, starring Lesley Sharp and Suranne Jones
11.00-12.10am Scott & Bailey A series of horrific events unfold following a killer's arrest

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.05pm Giant Lobster Hunters Squizzy enlists Bryce to learn the ropes and how to win (4/11)
7.10 FILM The Scorpion King (PG, 2002) Fantasy action adventure starring Dwayne Johnson, Steven Brand and Michael Clarke Duncan
9.00 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling
11.05-12.10am FILM Assassins (15, 1995) Thriller starring Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas and Julianne Moore

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Ethan may have found a way to make all of Sienna's dreams come true
7.30 The Big Bang Theory Raj is named one of People magazine's '30 to Watch Under 30"
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht The crew bonds on their day off
9.00 FILM Crocodile Dundee (15, 1986) Comedy adventure written by and starring Paul Hogan, with Linda Kozlowski
10.55 Naked Attraction
11.55-1.00am Naked Attraction

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of the quiz
8.20 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing A visit to Dorset
9.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob fish for Pike on the River Test in Hampshire
9.40 Meet the Richardsons Chris Kamara asks Jon to take part in a Leeds United fundraiser
10.20 Meet the Richardsons
11.00 QI XL Extended episode of the comedy panel quiz show
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine A rumour causes ructions
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Barry yearns for adventure
8.00 Father Brown Poor weather ends up plaguing Bunty and Mrs McCarthy's picnic
9.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries New series. Sister Boniface investigates an on-set murder. **See Viewing Guide**
10.00 New Tricks The hunt for a serial killer forces Sandra to rethink
11.20-1.35am Silent Witness

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain Visiting Snowdonia (11/13)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain To Buckingham Palace (12/13)
8.00 Classic Car Garage The team welcomes a Lincoln Continental with headlight woes (6/10)
9.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Across Long Island to Montauk lighthouse (2/15)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (10/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (12/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.50pm Grand Tours of Scotland Paul Murton travels by vintage bike through the Highlands (4/6)
7.25 Louis Armstrong's Little Satchmo The life of the jazz musician. **See Viewing Guide**
8.35 WWII in Color: Road to Victory Britain and the US prepare for their first assault on Europe
9.40 Jewish GIs of WWII
10.50 Louis Armstrong's Little Satchmo Documentary profile
12.00-1.10am WWII in Color: Road to Victory Britain prepares

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: Johnny Cash The life of the musician (2/9)
8.00 Guy Garvey: From the Vaults Performances by Chaka Khan and Tom Waits on *The Tube* in 1985
9.00 Peter Frampton: FCA! 35 Tour Footage from the guitarist's tour celebrating the anniversary of Frampton Comes Alive!
11.00-12.50am FILM Madness: The Get Up! (2021) Film featuring live performances by the band, combined with guest appearances by Paul Weller and Roland Gift

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire The smiths recreate a pair of Spetsnaz shovels
8.00 Salvage Kings Ted sends Nick and Brandon out on their very own mission for the first time
9.00 Secret Wars Uncovered The Cambodian Civil War
10.00 Guns That Changed the Game The quest to create more innovative and lethal weapons (1/3)
11.00 The Proof Is Out There
11.30 The Proof Is Out There
12.00-1.00am Secret Societies: In the Shadows Skull and Bones

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm A League of Their Own: European Road Trip Unseen clips from the duo's adventure (5/6)
8.00 Strike Back: Legacy (1/10)
9.00 Poker Face New series. A casino cocktail waitress with an uncanny knack for identifying lies investigates the death of her friend. **See Viewing Guide** (1/10)
10.10 Poker Face Charlie is forced to stop in New Mexico (2/10)
11.20-12.20am Bel-Air Will is suspended from the Bel-Air basketball team (4/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation Examining the case of missing Malaysia Airlines flight 370
8.00 Airport Security: Peru A man conceals cocaine in the structure of his suitcase (1/16)
9.00 To Catch a Smuggler CBP finds multiple doses of lethal fentanyl in passenger cars (4/16)
10.00 Airport Security: Colombia A man duped into drug trafficking
11.00 Churchill's German Army
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides
8.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
9.00 Viagra: The Little Blue Pill That Changed The World The marketing team grapple with how to sell the drug
10.00 How the Universe Works
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Sick of It (4/6)
7.30 Young Rock (11/13)
8.00 American Auto (11&12/13)
9.00 Ricky Velez: Here's Everything The comedian bares all
10.05 Rovers Comedy, starring Craig Cash and Sue Johnston
11.05-12.35am Gary Gulman: The Great Depresh Stand-up show

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 FILM The Other Woman (12, 2014) Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann and Kate Upton
11.00 Reno 911! Part one of two. The district attorney is in town
11.30 Reno 911! Part two of two. The investigation is concluded
12.00-12.30am Digman!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Open All Hours Arkwright has a rival for Nurse Gladys
7.40 Dad's Army Double bill
9.00 dinnerladies A new table-clearing system leaves Bren cold
9.35 dinnerladies Dolly gets in a flap about the new uniforms
10.10 The Office A 2003 special
11.10-12.20am The Office

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance
8.00 999 Rescue Squad The team are called to a major fire
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A 43-year-old cyclist is brought to A&E after crashing face first into a car
10.00 Gavin & Stacey Triple bill
12.00-1.25am Louis Theroux: Dark States: Trafficking Sex

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest (11/13)
8.00 Father Brown (2/10)
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators (5/9)
10.00 Death in Paradise (6/8)
11.00 Without a Trace Drama
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Comedy detective drama (7/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

12.00-2.00pm Live Formula 1
2.05pm Live Formula 2 Championship Monaco qualifying
3.00 Total Football
3.45-5.30 Live Formula 1
6.30 Live Women's Super League: Leeds Rhinos v St Helens At Headingley Stadium (Kick-off **5.30**)
7.30 Live Betfred Super League: Leeds Rhinos v St Helens At Headingley Stadium (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.15pm-12.00m't Live PGA Tour Golf Coverage of day two
2.00-4.30am Live NBA Basketball

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

1.00pm Total Football Get the definitive take from the managers and players themselves
7.00 Premier League Preview
7.30 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a Premier League star
8.00 David James: The One and Only The future of goalkeeping
9.30 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a Premier League star
10.00 Premier League Icons
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



Paul Hogan stars in the 1986 comedy adventure Crocodile Dundee (E4, 9pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League Coverage of the second qualifier match from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
7.00 Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Surrey v Kent Spitfires Coverage of the South Group match from The Oval
10.00 IPL Action from the second qualifier match from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
11.00-12.00m't T20 Blast 2007 Kent Spitfires v Gloucestershire Gladiators in the 2007 final

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

10.30-1.30pm Live AFL: Sydney Swans v Carlton Blues Coverage of the match (Bounce-up **10.50**)
2.30-4.30pm Live Hockey: Belgium v India (Push-back **2.40**)
5.00 Live Hockey: Great Britain v China (Push-back **5.10**)
7.00 Live MLB: Chicago Cubs v Cincinnati Reds (Start-time **7.20**)
10.30 MLB: Off The Bat
11.00pm-12.00m't WWE NXT Highlights Wrestling action
1.00-3.00am Live WWE Friday Night SmackDown

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.00pm The Football's On
8.00 Badminton Weekly
8.15 BT Sport Reload
8.30 PSA Squash Highlights
9.30 Scottish Football Extra
10.00 Uefa Champions League Magazine The latest news
10.30 Inside Serie A
11.00 Badminton Unlimited
11.30 MLB: Off The Bat
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: Baltimore Orioles v Texas Rangers Coverage of the match from Camden Yards (Start-time **12.05**)

Friday 26

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am The Guns of Fort Petticoat (PG, 1957) Western starring Audie Murphy **12.40pm Tora! Tora! Tora! (U, 1970)** Second World War drama starring Martin Balsam **3.30 The Red Pony (U, 1949)** Drama starring Robert Mitchum and Myrna Loy **5.15 A Lawless Street (U, 1955)** Western starring Randolph Scott and Angela Lansbury **6.55 Daddy's Home 2 (12, 2017)** Comedy starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg **9.00 Men in Black 3 (PG, 2012)** Sci-fi comedy with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones **11.10-1.30am The Sum of All Fears (12, 2002)** Action thriller starring Ben Affleck

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Ensign O'Toole 6.30 Reel Stories: The Projectionists 7.40 Private Information (U, 1952) Drama starring Jill Esmond and Jack Watling **9.00 A Cry from the Streets (PG, 1958)** Drama with Max Bygraves and Barbara Murray **10.55 Matt Monro: A Portrait Of** Profile of the singer **12.40pm The Abominable Snowman (12, 1957)** Hammer horror starring Peter Cushing **2.30 Crown Court 3.00 The Captain from Castile (PG, 1947)** Adventure starring Tyrone Power **5.50 AC Delco News 6.00 Time to Remember 6.30 Next To No Time (PG, 1958)** Comedy with Kenneth More and Betsy Drake **8.20 Look at Life 8.30 Dial 999 9.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 9.05 The Curse of the Fly (18, 1965)** Horror starring Brian Donlevy and George Baker **10.45 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 10.50-12.40am The Great St Louis Bank Robbery (PG, 1959)** Fact-based crime drama starring Steve McQueen

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Killer Ending (PG, 2018) Thriller starring Emmanuelle Vaugier **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 An Emma Fielding Mystery 2: Past Malice (PG, 2018)** Mystery starring Courtney Thorne-Smith **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 Presumed Guilty (15, 2016)** Drama starring Virginia Williams and Ryan Bittle **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Heist and Seek: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2020)** Mystery starring Candace Cameron Bure **4.50 GREAT! Movie News**



Steve McQueen stars (Talking Pictures TV, 10.50pm)

5.00 Black Widow (12, 2007) Thriller starring Elizabeth Berkley and Alicia Coppola **6.45 GREAT! Movie News 6.55 Street Fighter (12, 1994)** Action adventure starring Jean-Claude Van Damme **9.00 Men of Honor (15, 2000)** Drama starring Cuba Gooding Jr and Robert De Niro **11.35-2.10am Erin Brockovich (15, 2000)** Fact-based drama starring Julia Roberts

TCM Movies
SKY 315

8.05am The Fighting Lawman (U, 1953) Western starring Wayne Morris **9.40 How to Steal the World (PG, 1968)** Spy adventure starring Robert Vaughn **11.30 Fighter Squadron (U, 1948)** Second World War adventure with Robert Stack **1.30pm The Last Challenge (PG, 1967)** Western starring Glenn Ford and Chad Everett **3.25 Across the Wide Missouri (PG, 1951)** Western adventure with Clark Gable **5.05 Murder Most Foul (U, 1964)** Miss Marple mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **6.55 Return of the Gunfighter (U, 1967)** Western with Robert Taylor and Chad Everett **9.00 Hallowe'en (18, 1978)** Horror starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Donald Pleasence **10.55-1.35am US Marshals (15, 1998)** Thriller sequel starring Tommy Lee Jones

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

2.00pm Alone Together (15, 2022) Drama starring Katie Holmes and Jim Sturgess **3.55 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (PG, 2022)** Premiere. Musical comedy starring Javier Bardem. **See Film Choice 6.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **8.00 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan and Felicity Jones **9.45 The Cinema List: Fast Cars** The best cars from each of the Fast and Furious films **10.00-12.05am Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ruth Davidson **4.00** Cathy Newman **7.00** Ed Vaizey **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am Gary Davies **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **11.00** The Rock Show **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** TBA **2.00** A Rock Show Special — Led Zeppelin at 50 **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin (r) **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco

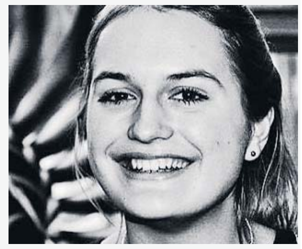
Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti Danny Driver unpacks the third set of piano studies **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Chineke! Wind Quintet perform a varied concert featuring music from Mexico, France and the American south. Ligeti (Six Bagatelles); Hindemith (*Klein Kammermusik*); Silvestrini (Six Etudes, No.6); Marquez (*Danza de Mediodia*) and Coleman (*Red Clay Mississippi Delta*) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Mozart (Adagio in E flat major, K 261); Söderlundh (*Little Waltz*); Debussy arr. Krause (*Cakewalk from Children's Corner*); Dvorak (*The Golden Spinning Wheel*, Op 109); Alfvén (*The Mountain King*, Acts 2 & 3) and Tarrodi (Cello Concerto — *Highlands*) **4.30 The Listening Service** Tom Service explores music that accompanies cartoons (r) **5.00 In Tune** Music news **7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Live Radio 3 in Concert** The BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus perform at the Barbican Hall, London. Mozart (Symphony No. 35 in D major — *Haffner*) Stravinsky (*Symphony of Psalms*); Prokofiev (Symphony No 7 in C sharp minor) **10.00 The Verb 10.45 The Essay: Death in Trieste** Seán Williams reflects on the myriad conclusions about Johann Wincklemann **11.00 Late Junction 1.00am Composed with Devonté Hynes 2.00 Piano Flow with Gabriels 3.00 Through the Night**

Today's pick

CrowdScience
World Service, 8.30pm

How do we know that the Earth revolves around the sun? This is the listener question that the presenter Caroline Steel, *right*, wants to answer in a programme telling the story of great thinkers across the ages. She travels to Australia to examine whether western scientists really were the first to grasp this understanding of our solar system. Aboriginal people were keen observers of the night sky, having detailed knowledge systems built around the sun, moon and planets visible to the eye. Did indigenous astrologers get to the truth of heliocentrism first? Ben Dowell



Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 Desert Island Discs** (r) **9.45 Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** Written by Naoíse Mac Sweeney (5/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Burden of Proof 11.30 Ed Reardon's Week** (r) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Archive on 4: The Socrates of San Francisco** (r) **1.00 The World at One 1.45 Taking Issue with Shakespeare** Michael Gove MP is Emma Smith's guest (5/5) **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: An Eye for a Killing** Written by Colin MacDonald (5/5) **2.45 Welcome to the Neighbourhood with Jayde Adams** New series. The world of online community forums **3.00 Gardeners' Question Time** Listeners' queries **3.45 Short Works** *Gwen's Silver Fox*, by John Sam Jones **4.00 Last Word 4.30 More or Less** (r) **5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The News Quiz 7.00 The Archers** Helen seeks advice from an old friend **7.15 Screenshot 8.00 Any Questions?** A debate **8.50 A Point of View 9.00 Listen to Britain** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (10/10) **11.00 Americast 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** (5/5) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** The Footballers' Football Podcast **1.30** Kammy & Ben's Proper Football Podcast **2.00** Elis James and John Robins **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** The Friday Football Social **9.00** Rugby League **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Laura McGhie

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** GameDay Countdown **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle **10.00** Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Plank of the Week **8.00** Friday Night with Nadine **9.00** What Just Happened? **9.30** The Royal Tea **10.00** The Best of the Talk **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Steptoe and Son **8.30** Flying the Flag **9.00** Act Your Age **9.30** Bleak Expectations **10.00** Shy Baby **10.45** Short Works **11.00** Who Killed Zebedee? **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** In My Mind's Eye **12.15pm** Dead Cert **12.30** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **1.00** Steptoe and Son **1.30** Flying the Flag **2.00** Act Your Age **2.30** Bleak Expectations **3.00** Shy Baby **3.45** Short Works **4.00** Who Killed Zebedee? **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** In My Mind's Eye **5.15** Dead Cert **5.30** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **6.00** Steptoe and Son **6.30** Flying the Flag **7.00** Act Your Age **7.30** Bleak Expectations **8.00** Taking Art to the People **8.30** A Good Read **9.00** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry **9.30** Ruth Rendell Stories **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Comedy Club: Mark Steel's in Town. The Forest of Dean **11.00** Tim Key's Late Night Poetry Programme **11.15** Knocker **11.30** Les Kelly's Britain

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** News **10.06** The Real Story **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Heart and Soul **12.00** News **12.06pm** The Fifth Floor **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Science in Action **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** The Fifth Floor **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** BBC OS Conversations **8.30** CrowdScience. Why the sun is at the centre of the solar system. **See Choice 9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** Heart and Soul **11.00** Newsroom **11.20** Sports **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Real Story **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Stumped **3.00** News **3.06** The Fifth Floor **3.50** Witness History **4.00** News **4.06** Real Story

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq. The Friday Free for All **7.00** The People's Party with Afrodeutsche **9.00** Tom Ravenscroft **11.00** The Ravers Hour **12.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever **1.00am** 6 Music's Emo Forever

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson. Music and chat **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics. With Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

MindGames

Samurai Sudoku No 872 — Medium

9	8	2											8				9	2		6
																1		9		7
		5	2			1		7				9			4					3
		6			4	8	7							3			2	7		
3	5		7			9								7	5	6				
		1	9					3					5	2		7	4		9	
	4		1	2					9	5					2			5		
6					5						3									1
		8			9			4							1				6	
														7						
							9	1				8	3							
						8														
	2				9							4			7			6		
5									1						9					7
		3			2					3	9					1	4		9	
	8		6	2		3	5					1					2	7		
				3	5	4								2			1		3	9
		1	7			8							3	4	5			8		
4					6			1				5		6			3	2		
6		7		4																
8		5	3				6											1	6	3

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Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

5	2	6	3	4	1	9	7	8				1	7	5	4	9	2	3	8	6
9	4	8	6	7	5	2	1	3				3	9	6	7	8	1	2	5	4
3	7	1	2	9	8	5	6	4				2	4	8	3	6	5	9	1	7
6	1	5	7	3	4	8	2	9				8	3	9	2	4	6	5	7	1
4	8	2	1	5	9	7	3	6				6	1	2	5	3	7	8	4	9
7	9	3	8	6	2	1	4	5				4	5	7	9	1	8	6	3	2
8	6	7	9	2	3	4	5	1	7	2	8	9	6	3	1	5	4	7	2	8
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2	5	9	4	1	6	3	8	7	1	6	9	5	2	4	8	7	9	1	6	3
						2	7	5	9	1	3	6	4	8						
						9	6	8	2	4	7	3	1	5						
						1	3	4	6	8	5	2	9	7						
9	7	4	1	3	8	5	2	6	4	7	1	8	3	9	6	1	5	4	2	7
8	5	2	6	9	4	7	1	3	8	9	6	4	5	2	8	7	9	1	6	3
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2	1	9	5	6	7	4	3	8				3	9	8	1	4	6	5	7	2
4	3	7	8	2	9	1	6	5				7	2	4	5	9	8	6	3	1
5	8	6	4	1	3	2	9	7				5	6	1	7	2	3	9	8	4
7	2	3	9	4	5	6	8	1				2	4	5	9	6	7	3	1	8
1	9	8	2	7	6	3	5	4				6	1	7	3	8	4	2	9	5
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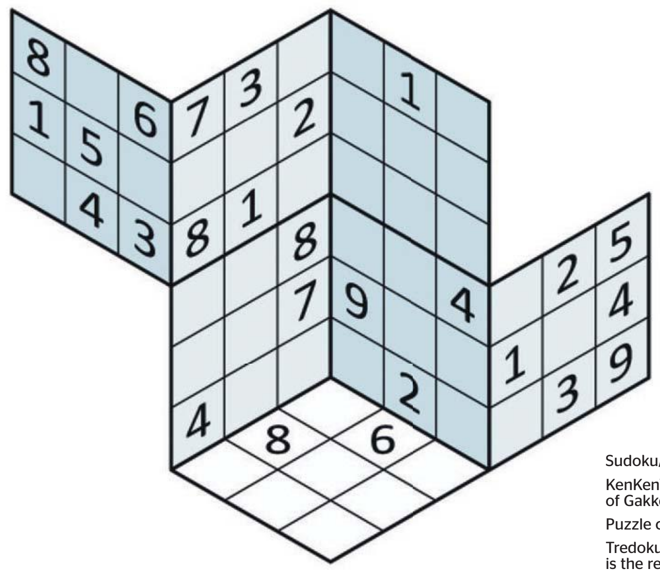
Our five-grid Sudoku will test your powers of logic and deduction.

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length. The interlocking nature of the grid gives you more clues — and more complexity.

Remember — don't try to solve each Sudoku grid in turn; the puzzle has to be tackled as a whole.

Stuck? Call 0901 293 6263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

Tredoku No 1786 — Hard



Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each 3x3 box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is three-dimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.

Sudoku/Killer © Puzzler Media

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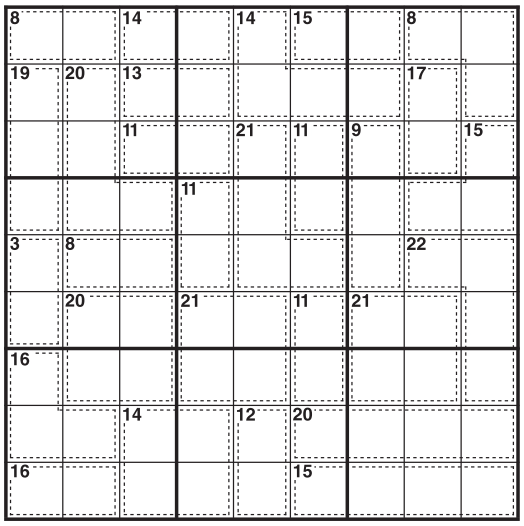
Sudoku No 14,056 — Fiendish

			2		6			
	2		3	8	4		5	
3				5				7
	8						9	
		1	9		8	2		
	6						2	
2	1	4				8	3	6
		5				1		

How to solve Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

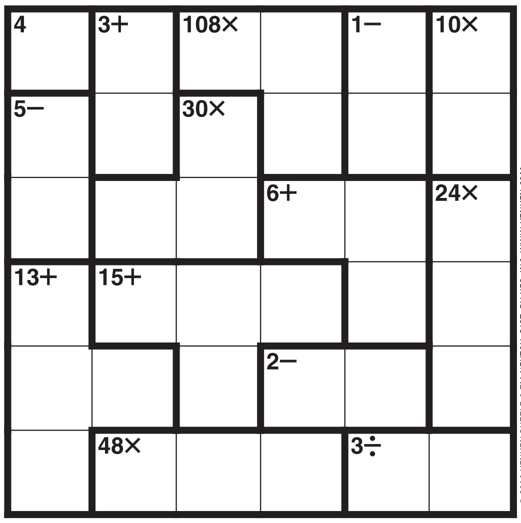
Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?
Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.
SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 8885 — Deadly



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.
For solutions to KenKen, Sudoku & Killer see Times2 on Monday

KenKen No 5898 — Medium

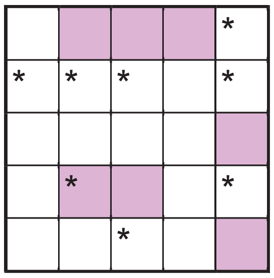


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All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Square Routes® No 219 — Easy

Ian Simpson & Richard Heald



COULOMB
HENRY
LUMEN
NEWTON
OHM
SIEMENS
SIEVERT
VOLT

Put one letter in each cell so that each word on the right can be spelt out by moving from cell to cell without using diagonal moves. You can use a cell more than once in a word (including backtracking into a cell you've just used), but double letters (eg, the LL in ALL) must use two adjacent cells. The words start in the coloured cells and the vowels are shown by asterisks.

Solution on Monday

Answers

Friday's solutions

KenKen No 5897

120× 4	6	6× 1	3	7+ 5	2
1	5	2	2÷ 4	6 6	16+ 3
6 6	3÷ 1	20× 5	2	3	4
2− 5	3	4	2÷ 1	2	6
3	4− 2	6	5 5	5+ 4	6+ 1
2− 2	4	2÷ 3	6	1	5

Sudoku No 14,053

7	2	3	9	5	8	4	6	1
8	9	5	4	1	6	7	3	2
6	4	1	3	2	7	8	9	5
4	7	2	8	3	1	6	5	9
5	1	8	6	7	9	3	2	4
3	6	9	5	4	2	1	8	7
1	3	4	2	6	5	9	7	8
9	5	6	7	8	4	2	1	3
2	8	7	1	9	3	5	4	6

Sudoku No 14,054

6	7	3	5	8	9	4	2	1
5	1	2	6	4	3	8	9	7
4	8	9	1	2	7	6	3	5
8	6	4	9	5	2	7	1	3
1	2	5	7	3	8	9	4	6
3	9	7	4	6	1	5	8	2
2	4	1	8	7	5	3	6	9
9	5	8	3	1	6	2	7	4
7	3	6	2	9	4	1	5	8

Sudoku No 14,055

4	7	2	8	3	6	9	5	1
3	1	6	4	5	9	2	8	7
9	8	5	7	2	1	6	3	4
8	2	3	1	4	7	5	9	6
6	4	7	2	9	5	3	1	8
5	9	1	6	8	3	4	7	2
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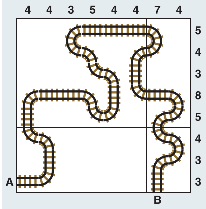
Killer No 8883

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1	4	2	9	5	3	7	6	8
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9	3	8	7	4	6	5	1	2
8	2	4	6	9	7	3	5	1
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7	1	5	3	2	4	6	8	9

Killer No 8884

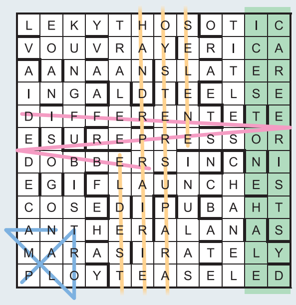
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7	9	1	3	4	2	6	8	5
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4	6	3	7	9	1	5	2	8
5	1	7	6	2	8	4	3	9
6	4	9	8	5	3	7	1	2
1	3	8	2	7	6	9	5	4
2	7	5	4	1	9	8	6	3

Train Tracks No 1941



Codeword No 4905

J	O	J	O	B	A		Q	U	E	A	S	Y
A		U		L				M		V		A
C	O	M	F	O	R	T		B	R	A	W	N
K		B		A		I		E		R		K
A	D	O	P	T		F	E	R	V	I	D	
S				E		F				C		
S	E	C	E	D	E		A	S	P	E	C	T
		A				B		T				A
	S	T	U	C	C	O		R	E	M	I	X
Z		M		O		M		A		O		A
E	D	I	F	Y		B	A	T	H	T	U	B
R		N		P				U		T		L
O	U	T	G	U	N		I	M	P	O	S	E



The Listener 4761 Outside the Box by Arcadia

The four-line path traces "patrolman"; three lines go through "differ, entêté, rosser, peruse, dobber"; the single line running down the table, back up on the underside and down again from the top, follows "eldest hand, prairie oysters, paraselene". The shading constitutes one (thick) line through 24 letters. More details at listenercrossword.com. The winners are H Johnson of London SE9; SJJ Tiffin of Cockermouth, Cumbria; Chris Atkins of Botley, Hampshire.

Solve Cryptic Quintagram every weekday online
Go to thetimes.co.uk

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Quiet charity rewarded (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Thrifty, if proud: gladly giving away the odd bits (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Girl hugging doctor: one bringing body back from dead! (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Area cut in four: pity (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Touring again: a top part of South America (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	A	B	D
E	E	F	G	G	I	I	I
L	M	N	O	O	P	P	Q
R	R	R	T	T	U	U	Z

Answers below

Word Watch
David Parfitt

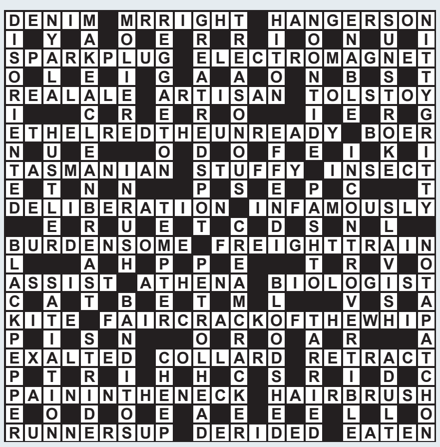
Cowflop
a. A loose hood
b. The foxglove
c. Nonsense

Featous
a. Daring
b. Handsome
c. Characteristic

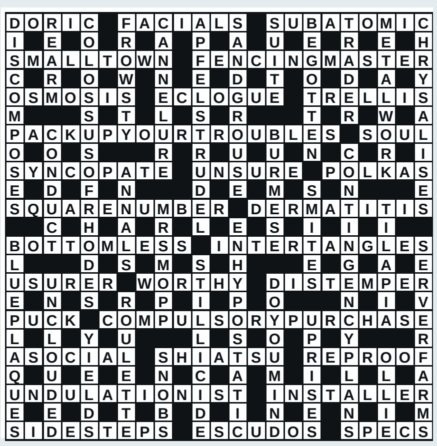
Bougie
a. A disco dance
b. A railway cart
c. A wax candle

Equivoque
a. A set of scales
b. A pun
c. A horse-drawn vehicle

Answers below

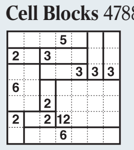


Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1613
The winner is Russell Taylor of Northwood, Greater London

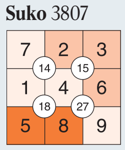


Solution to times2 Jumbo 1613
The winner is Linda Webster of Edinburgh

Cell Blocks 4788



Suko 3807



Mindset
1. {RETINOL} — vitamin A; {PERSONAL, ASSISTANT} — PA; {BOONE, CASH, SMEAR} — famous PATs; {COMPLETED, FORMER, HISTORY, PRIOR} — synonyms for PAST; {BUTTERFLY, CORKSCREW, PEN, SHELL, STAR} — PASTA types (farfalle, fusilli, penne, conchiglie, stelle).
2. 8. Can be followed by 1 to make a square number — all the others can be preceded by 1 to make a square number.
3. {BLANKET, FISH, NURSE, SUIT} — can be preceded by WET; {BLOW, DRIP, FREEZE, TUMBLE} — can be followed by DRY.

Word Watch
Cowflop (b) The foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) (*Collins*). **Featous** (b) Handsome (*Chambers*). **Bougie** (c) A wax candle (*OED*). **Equivoque** (b) A pun (*OED*).

Polygon
ether, exert, expert, here, hyper, **hypertext**, peer, peery, père, pert, peter, petter, pretext, pretty, prex, prexy, prey, pyre, rete, retype, tether, texter, there, three, tree, tret, trey, tyre.

Scrabble
SUNG/SNUG (L12a); FOGIES (B4d).

Literary quiz
1 Robert Markham/Kingsley Amis. **2** Jeffery Deaver. **3** William Boyd. **4** Anthony Horowitz.

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Paid **2** Frugal **3** Zombie **4** Quarter **5** Patagonia.

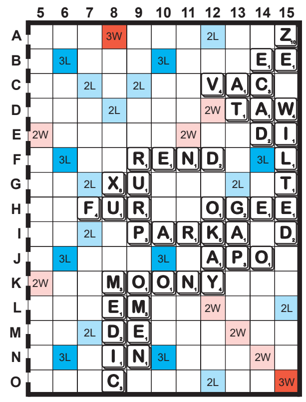
Scrabble® Paul Gallen

The five-time world Scrabble champion Nigel Richards remains the top player in the rankings of the World English Scrabble Players Association (Wespa) despite having played sporadically in recent years. Richards only played one Wespa-rated tournament last year and played his first tournament of 2023 earlier this month. That event was the Word Wizard Challenge, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Despite his inactivity, Richards showed that he had not lost his touch and emerged victorious. Over the coming weeks, I will share details of a selection of Richards's games from the event and his most notable moves.

This week's column focuses on Richards's game against Leon Tan. Tan employed a defensive strategy and sought to frustrate his opponent as much as possible. Such tactics are always risky against Richards, who is one of the best players in the world on constrained board architectures. On the board extract opposite, Tan played GUVS (A12d) from the following rack for 34 points to take a small lead.

G N N S T T U

Despite the congested board, Richards was able to deploy a bonus word in response when he played the fantastic nine-letter play of *H*OLDERBAT (M5a) for 74 points. Can you find two 38-point plays that would have thwarted Richards's spectacular move?



Tan clawed back the deficit with the bonus word BATTINGS (A6a) later in the game. Despite trailing by two points, Richards was in control on the main board diagram below while holding the following rack.

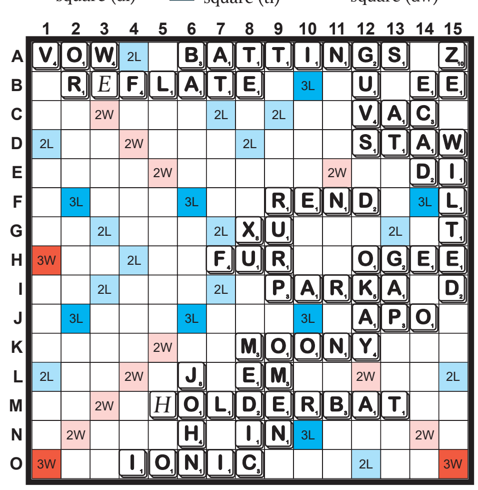
E G I O S S U

Richards played a six-letter word for 20 points, keeping the U in the hope of picking the unseen Q. Can you find his play?

Richards duly picked the Q and finished the game in style with the bonus word SILIQUAE from his final rack.

Collins Official Scrabble Words is the word authority used.
Word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.

2L double letter square (dl) · 3L triple letter square (tl) · 2W double word square (dw) · 3W triple word square (tw)



Letter values
1 point: A E I O U L N R S T
2 points: D G
3 points: B C M P
4 points: F H V W Y
K = 5
J X = 8
Q Z = 10

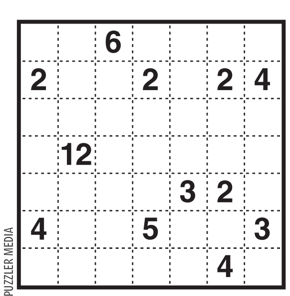
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Polygon Roger Phillips



Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.
How you rate: 14 words average; 19, good; 28, very good; 38, excellent.
Answers to Friday's Polygon are to the left. Today's answers are printed in MindGames on Monday

Cell Blocks 4789



© PUZZLER MEDIA

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.
Yesterday's solution, left

Chess David Howell

In Memoriam

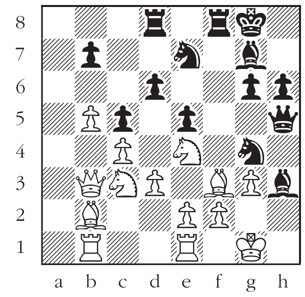
Sad news emerged last week of the death of Sue Maroroa Jones as a result of complications following childbirth. She was only 32.

A strong chess player from a young age, Sue grew up in New Zealand before relocating to England. She represented both countries on the international stage, including at seven Olympiads. Among several notable results, Sue's performances during the 2013/2014 4NCL and the 2019 Reykjavik Open stand out. She had previously obtained the Woman International Master title in Australia in 2009.

I first met Sue at the 2008 Olympiad in Dresden where she was playing for New Zealand. It was during this event that she first met her future husband and my England team-mate, GM Gawain Jones. The couple were married in June 2012 and went on to settle in Sheffield. Sue is survived by Gawain and their two young children, Samaria and Daniel.

Sue's chess style was intuitive and aggressive. She brought this enterprising approach to another of her passions: rugby. The following game illustrates Sue's attacking prowess.

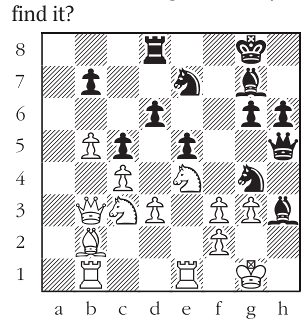
White: Ashley Stewart
Black: Sue Maroroa Jones
Four Nations Chess League, Reading 2017
English Opening
1 c4 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 Nc3 0-0 5 Nf3 d6 6 0-0 e5 Sue's widower Gawain is one of the world's leading experts on the King's Indian set-up for Black. **7 d3 h6 8 Rb1 Nc6 9 b4 a6 10 a4** Thematic play from both sides. White has a free hand to advance on the queenside, while Black will attempt to stir up counterplay on the opposite flank. **10...Be6 11 Nd2 Qc8 12 b5 axb5 13 axb5 Ne7 14 Re1 Bh3 15 Bh1** The light-squared bishop is White's most influential piece, both from a defensive and strategic point of view. This retreat is therefore desirable, although leaving Black's bishop on h3 is slightly uncomfortable for the white king. **15...Ng4 16 Bb2 c6 17 Qb3 Qf5** Sue's army starts to gravitate towards the kingside. **18 Nde4 Rad8 19 Ba3 c5 20 Bb2** White fails to realise the danger. 20 f3 Nf6 21 Nf2 was objectively best, eliminating the thorn on h3. **20...Qh5 21 Bf3** The alarm bells should have been ringing. White cannot afford such luxuries. Kicking back Black's pieces was an urgent priority: 21 f3 Nf6 22 Nxf6+ Bxf6 23 Ra1. Though the h1-bishop is now blocked, it has become more difficult for Black to generate an attack. **21...f5 22 Nd2 f4** Momentum is clearly on Black's side. In practical terms, White is already in deep trouble. **23 Nde4 fxg3 24 hxg3?** A very natural mistake. Chess wisdom dictates that we should always capture towards the centre where possible. Here, however, an exception was required. Both 24 fxg3 and 24 Nxg3 give hope of survival.



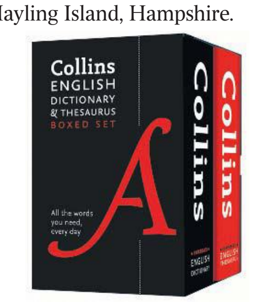
Black's build-up play has been exemplary: all the pieces find themselves on promising attacking squares. One question remains: how to break the opponent's defences? **24...Bg2!** A brilliant clearance sacrifice. Once the black queen infiltrates, the enemy king will not survive. 24...Rxf3! was another path to victory. For the position after 25 exf3, see today's Winning Move puzzle. **25 Kxg2 Qh2+ 26 Kf1 Qh3+** Repeating once to assert Black's dominance. **27 Kg1** 27 Bg2 does not help: 27...Ne3+ 28 Kg1 Qxg2 mate. **27...Qh2+ 28 Kf1 Nf5!** Further reinforcements join the action. The combination of queen and knights make a formidable force. **29 Nd1 Nxf2!** An aesthetically pleasing move. The foundations of White's position have been destroyed; checkmate is inevitable. **30 Bc1** Either 30 Ndxf2 Ne3 mate or 30 Nexf2 Nxg3 mate would have been a logical end to the game. **30...Nxe4 31 Bf4 Nexg3+ White resigns**

Winning Move

Black to play. Variation from Stewart-Maroroa Jones, 2017. Black has one visually striking move to win the game. Can you find it?



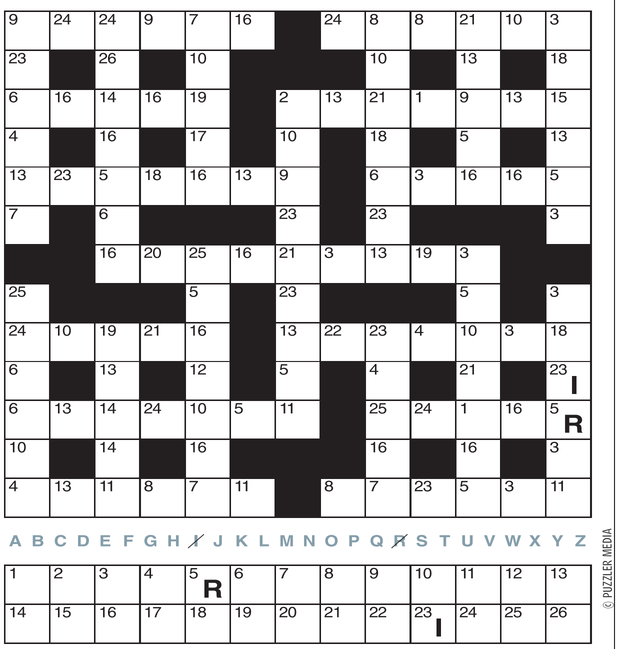
The first correct entry drawn on Thursday will receive a copy of *Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus*. The two runners-up will receive a book prize. Answers on a postcard to: The Times Winning Move, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or email to: winningmove@thetimes.co.uk. Open to 18+, UK and ROI residents only. The answer will be published next Saturday.
Solution to last week's puzzle: 1 Qe7+! wins: 1...Nxe7 2 Rxd8 mate
The winner is Dennis Orton of Hayling Island, Hampshire.



MindGames

The Times Crossword, Latin Crossword, Saturday Quiz and Suko are in the back of the main paper

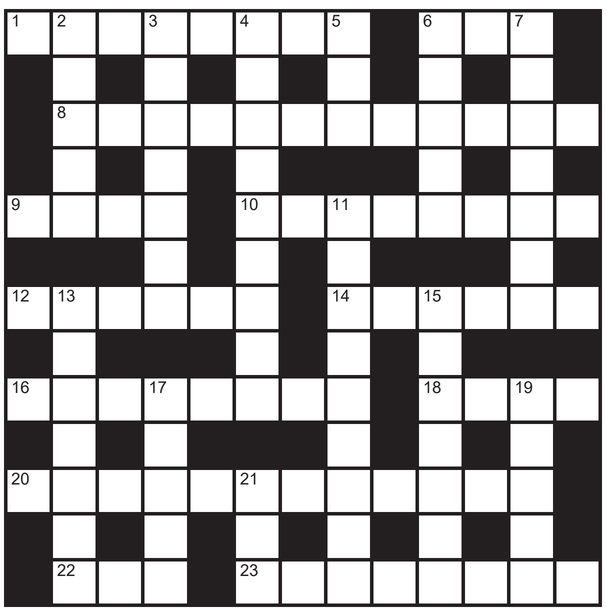
Codeword No 4906



Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution on page 56*

Stuck on Codeword? To receive four random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

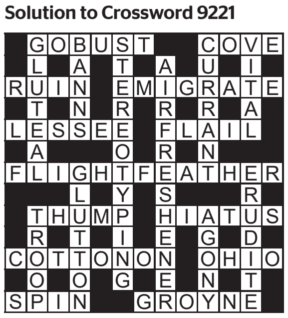
times2 Crossword No 9222



Across
1 System preventing harm in case of malfunction (4-4)
6 Lout (3)
8 Rough-and-ready guidelines (5,2,5)
9 Lift (a weighty object) (4)
10 Cinema showing avant-garde films (8)
12 Highly probable (4-2)
14 Followers of an ancient Celtic religion (6)
16 Distinctive or characteristic attribute (8)
18 Border on (4)
20 Terminal point (3,2,3,4)
22 Day before (3)
23 Contrary to reason or propriety (8)

Down
2 Concur (5)
3 Signs indicating a novice driver (1-6)
4 Person refusing to cast a vote (9)
5 Folklore creature (3)
6 Exuberant cry (5)
7 Baffled, perplexed (7)
11 Soft toy (5,4)
13 Drive to distraction (7)
15 Dissimilar (7)
17 Exploratory spacecraft (5)
19 People on a computer system (5)
21 Device controlling the flow of liquid (3)

Solution to Crossword 9221



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

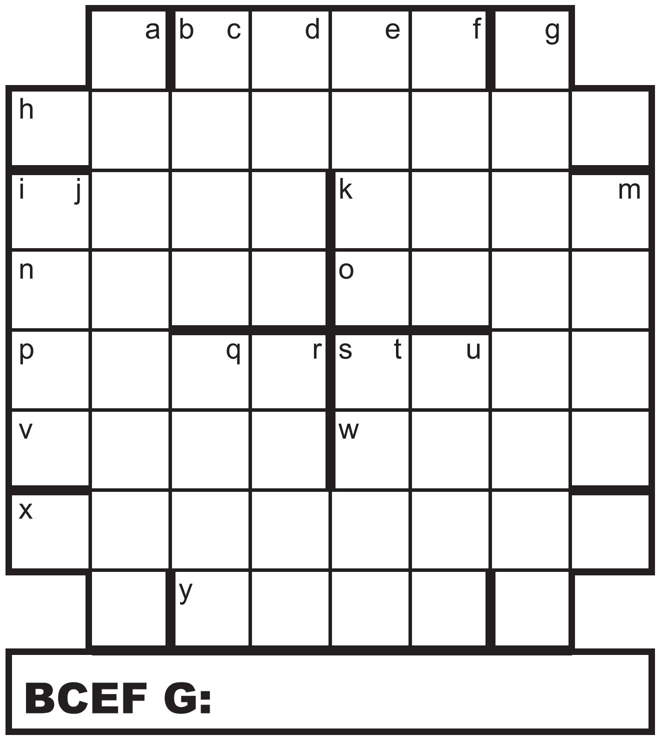
The Listener Crossword No 4764 Root 66 by Miles

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4764, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by June 1.

Listener 4761 solution on page 56

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk



Name

Address

Postcode **Phone/email**

The clue answers are based on equations of the form $(B + C\sqrt{66})(E + F\sqrt{66}) = G + H\sqrt{66}$, where B, C, E and F are distinct nonzero digits, G is a positive four-digit integer with no zeros or repeated digits and H is some positive integer. In the clues the letters of DURATIONS stand for the digits 1 to 9 in an order to be determined. In seven cases the answer is a BCEF value, ie 1000B + 100C + 10E + F, and the grid entry is its G value; the remaining 13 answers are G values and the entry is an associated BCEF value. Each of the unclued entries a, g, h and x consists of a BCEF value followed by its G value. To resolve an ambiguity, solvers must identify a distinctive property that they all share. Solvers must find another BCEF and G pair with the same property, where G is the largest of the five that exist and BCEF is the smallest of its four possible values, and enter them below the grid with their digits converted to the letters used in the clues. All answers are different and all entries are different; normal rules of algebra apply in the clues; √X means the positive square root of X.

Across
b $-D + UR^{(A + T)} + I + ON^S$
i $R + O(TU + N)DA$
k $(S + I + T^A + RO - U - N)D$
n $U((N + I)^T - (A + R)D)S$
o $(A + S)T(R^O - \sqrt{(ID)})$
p $SU^T + (O + R + I)A + N$
s $(DI - NO)(S + T)A + R$
v $(T/R)I^N(ODU + S)$
w $(TU^N(D + R) + A)S$
y $-(\sqrt{I})N + TRADO + S$

Down
c $-D + U(R + A)(T^I + ON^S)$
d $DI(N^OS + A + U)R$
e $(AROU + N)D$
f $A(U + D) + (I + T + O)R^S$
j $S - A + U^T(O + I - R)$
m $(S(U + D - A) - T)IO + N$
q $R - (A + I + N + O - U^T)S$
r $((N + U)^T + RI + S + O + D)A$
t $R(O(\sqrt{D} - A + UST) - I + N)$
u $A(S^T + OU + N) + D$

Mindset by 700

1. The following words can be divided into five sets of size 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Each set is associated with a word of that length, and these words grow incrementally (eg A-AN-PAN-PAIN-PAINT).
What are the sets?

ASSISTANT	BOONE	BUTTERFLY	CASH
COMPLETED	CORKSCREW	FORMER	HISTORY
PEN	PERSONAL	PRIOR	RETINOL
SHELL	SMEAR	STAR	

2. Which is the odd number out? 6, 8, 21, 69, 156, 225, 296

3. Divide into two sets:
BLANKET, BLOW, DRIP, FISH, FREEZE, NURSE, SUIT, TUMBLE

Answers on page 57

Literary Quiz
The Times Literary Desk

Shaken, Stirred and Spun-off
Name the authors of these four James Bond continuation novels
1 *Colonel Sun*, 1968
2 *Carte Blanche*, 2011
3 *Solo*, 2013
4 *Forever and a Day*, 2018

Answers on page 57

Bridge Andrew Robson

The play on this deal from the 4th European Winter Games in Tignes was fascinating at every table.

Dealer West Both Vul

North: ♠ Q 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A K 10 7 6 5 ♣ A 8 6 3
West: ♠ K J 9 7 5 4 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 9 ♣ K Q J 2
East: ♠ - ♥ K J 10 9 8 2 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ 10 7 4
South: ♠ A 10 8 6 3 ♥ A Q 5 3 ♦ Q 2 ♣ 9 5

Table One

S	W	N	E
	1♠(1)	2♦	3♥(2)
3NT(3)	end		

(1) Satisfying the rule of 20 — a bit too good for a Weak Two.
(2) Weak jump shift, an increasingly popular treatment.
(3) Practical shot, aiming for six diamond tricks, two hearts and a spade (and hoping the opponents can't run the first five clubs).

West led the king of clubs, continued with the queen (ducked) and a low club, declarer winning dummy's ace and shedding a heart from hand. Presuming from the bidding that East held the king of hearts, declarer now finessed the queen and cashed the ace (removing West's second heart).

At trick six, declarer cashed the queen of diamonds but there was no need to risk the suit splitting (by leading a second diamond). Instead, declarer led a spade towards dummy (safe given what he knew). West rose with the king and declarer unblocked dummy's queen. West cashed the jack of clubs but then had to lead a spade. Declarer won cheaply in hand and cashed the ace of spades, whereupon East was squeezed between ♥K and ♦J8x. Game made.

Table Two

S	W	N	E
	1♠	2♦	Dbl(1)
2♠(2)	Pass	5♦(3)	end

(1) Skimpy negative double, showing hearts (not playing Weak Jump shifts).
(2) Good diamond raise (can be honour-doubleton facing a Two-level overcall).
(3) Practical jump (a natural-ish 3♣ would be the scientific approach).

East led the jack of hearts v North's 5♦ — the reason for his failure to lead his partner's spades was clear (he didn't have one). Declarer gambled dummy's queen (winning) then led a club, ducking West's jack). He won West's diamond switch with dummy's queen then crossed to the ace of clubs and ruffed a third club.

At trick six, declarer cashed the ace of hearts discarding a spade and ruffed a heart. He then cashed the ace of diamonds (revealing the bad split) and played king and another diamond. East won the jack and led a heart (perforce).

This time it was West who was squeezed — in the blacks, between ♠KJ and ♣K. Whichever suit West discarded enabled declarer (after ruffing the heart) to make an extra trick — 11 tricks and game made.

How funny. West squeezed in the blacks or East in the reds.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

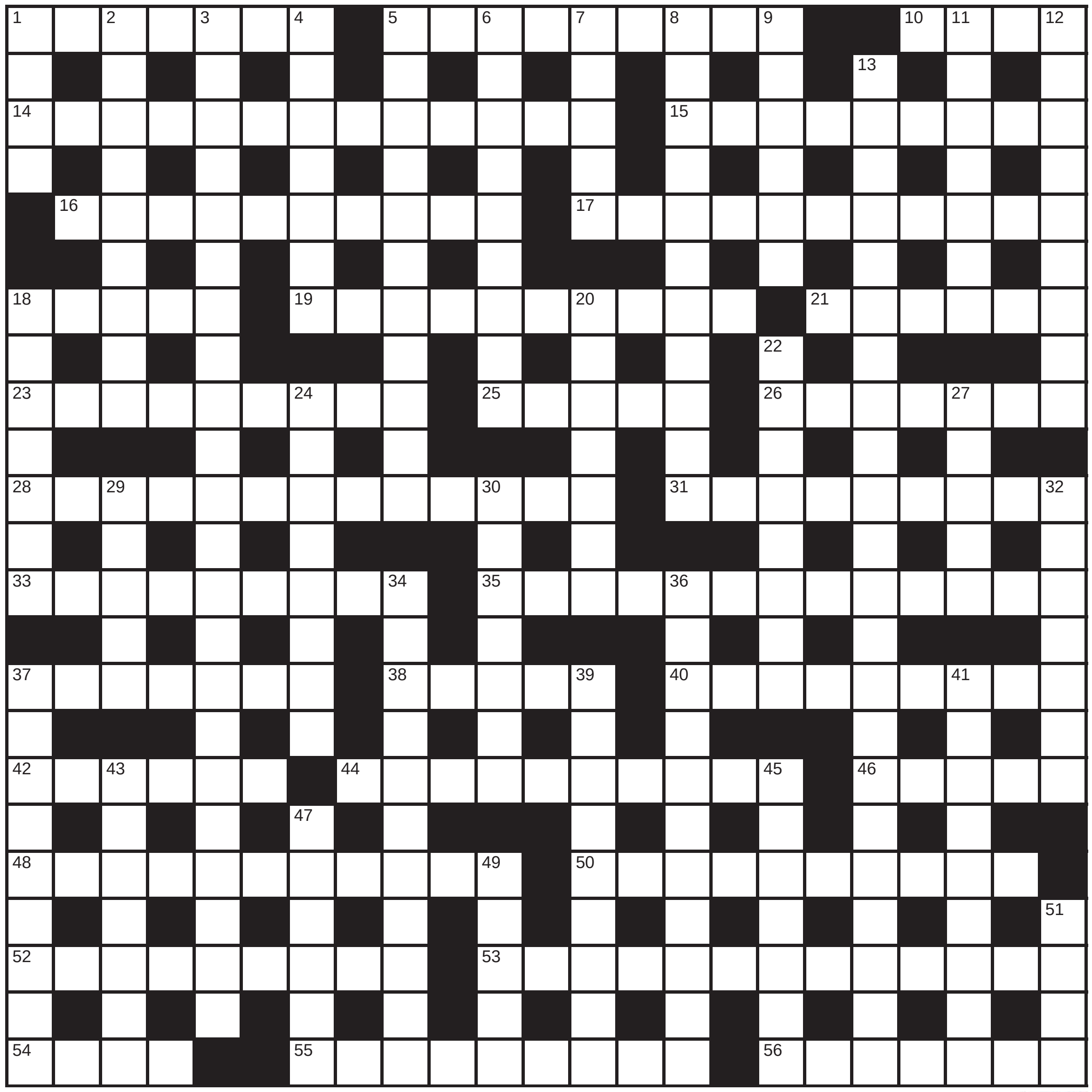
For more crosswords and your favourite puzzles go to thetimes.co.uk

Jumbo crossword No 1616

Cryptic clues

Across
1 Place to drink in west Peru unfortunately overrun by bachelors (7)
5 Runs after insect close to some other creatures (9)
10 Grasp a bit of wood (4)
14 Winner angry about sixth in javelin getting a medal (8,5)
15 Canonises extraordinary biblical event (9)
16 Stop working with Conservative friend, suppressing one little article (4,2,1,3)
17 High society venerating Venus at times (7,4)
18 Is angry girl finally ejected from rides? (5)
19 Swooped to arrest Harry's pal, it's said (10)
21 Certify a temperature check (6)
23 One receiving item of clothing found in a river (9)
25 Vicar finished — prepare to move? (3,2)
26 Switch positions to get beer regularly discounted (2,5)
28 Visionary bank employee is after loads of money (7-6)
31 Conservative position on playing fields? (5-4)
33 Look — African country's backed abandoning island test site (3,6)
35 Criminal fetches pie, I go for some coins (6,2,5)
37 Old Arab wins a race, newcomer admits (7)
38 Range of addresses covering area (5)
40 Turner finished study at last in solitary setting? (6,3)
42 Something unique I do away with (3-3)
44 Unconventional sort of complimentary booze (4,6)
46 For example, A&E records (5)
48 Race brother frantically to become leader (11)
50 Hamming it up and going too far not concerning (10)
52 Poet briefly following an elected official, at first quite slowly (9)
53 Place for child beginning to be mature has food and game equipment (8,5)
54 Fruit chopped near a city (4)
55 Dossier contains lady with a grand bird of prey (4,5)
56 Queen put on a lot of perfume approaching unknown landscape (7)

Down
1 Reportedly drink a bunch (4)
2 Old flame — extremely critical — pointed and shouted (9)
3 Country's crazy public school fee in paper (7,8,2,5)
4 Description of a city is hyped (5-2)
5 Choices read out for church district (11)
6 Fellow reportedly in favour of boxing with piece of wood (3-2-4)
7 Man perhaps following large thread (5)
8 Song perhaps heard by footballer who's trying to stop a fight (11)
9 What might be pulled by worker without a complaint? (6)
11 Stretch outside street, making a high-pitched noise (7)
12 Military officer at peak time cuts power source (9)
13 He thinks of battleground prepared for old warriors (7,2,3,5,5)
18 Scared of loud tirade (7)
20 Vehicle heading north uncovered barren region of Spain (7)
22 Cow with no hair scratching head underneath pine (8)
24 Irate with sons joining forces (8)
27 Chuck's brief liaison (5)
29 Part of staircase in skyscraper is erected (5)
30 US city home for French mathematician (7)
32 Estimate includes time left to make chicken (7)
34 Certain figures having uncool origins (6,5)
36 Learn beagle is changing — it's not as big as it could be! (11)
37 Minor accident producing deficit (9)
39 Take a drink, perfecting way of removing liquid (9)
41 Lessen the impact of a university from the south interrupting degree (English) (9)
43 Title of organ recital ultimately upset music fan (7)
45 Drink last of liquor, slump over, and cry due to this? (4,3)
47 Sculpture is a consolation (6)
49 Look around park and castle on vacation (5)
51 Toy losing head in whirlpool (4)



Name..

Address..

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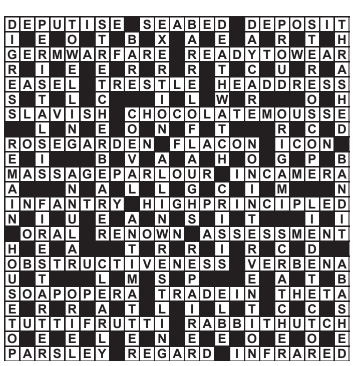
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Prizes



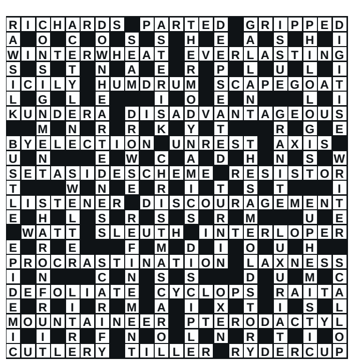
The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including *The Times Universal Atlas of the World, Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus,* and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1616, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1616" or "times2 1616" in the subject line, to arrive by June 1. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on June 3.

Bank holiday Cryptic Jumbo solution No 1614



The winner is A and J Cook of Muir of Lownie, Forfar, Angus

Bank holiday times2 Jumbo solution No 1614



The winner is Louise Townsend of Pound Hill, West Sussex

Train Tracks returns next week

times2 clues

Across
1 Kitchen preparation surface (7)
5 Car with a folding roof (9)
10 Clean with soap and water (4)
14 Occurring immediately (13)
15 Soldier; fish (9)
16 Offer booklet (10)
17 Turning machine (6,5)
18 Spice bud (5)
19 Device for, eg, brazils (10)
21 Raucous tropical bird (6)
23 Across the globe (9)
25 Chinese mammal (5)
26 Provoked, annoyed (7)
28 Not able to be disputed (13)
31 Common aquarium fish (4,5)
33 Calling up strong memories (9)
35 Person in rhyme born on a Monday (7,6)
37 Melodious (7)
38 Atomic weapon (1-4)
40 Traditional Alpine climbing shoe (9)
42 White stoat fur (6)
44 Hesitant; uncertain (10)
46 European country (5)
48 Below a required quality (11)
50 Having firmness of purpose (10)
52 Medley (9)
53 Thoughtless (13)
54 Unit of length (4)
55 Service of plates and dishes (6,3)
56 Pickled cucumber (7)

Down
1 Legal document (4)
2 Artificial lake (9)
3 Maths relation indefinable by a finite number of algebraic operations (14,8)
4 Repeated decorative design (7)
5 Being a part of a whole (11)
6 Loop used to pull on footwear (9)
7 Piece let into a garment (5)
8 Prestidigitation (11)
9 Ancient Egyptian or Greek city (6)
11 Flier (7)
12 (Of crops) gathered in (9)*
13 Right of MPs to speak freely (13,9)
18 Leather (7)
20 Become semi-solid on cooling (7)
22 Inability to sleep (8)
24 Not fit for consumption (8)
27 Bedfordshire town with airport (5)
29 Royal headdress (5)
30 Made to order (7)
32 An unspecified person (7)
34 Strong encouragement (11)
36 Aid to avoiding malaria (8,3)
37 System of belief founded in 1875 (9)
39 Rough and isolated country (*US*) (9)
41 Registered company symbol (9)
43 Gangster (7)
45 Item of jewellery (7)
47 — Bergman, Swedish actress (6)
49 Determination, ambition (5)
51 Blood vessel (4)



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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

THE TIMES

Saturday May 20 2023



The cool guide to Barcelona

Plus Phil Spencer: meet my new 'work wife'

Weekend

Travel starts on page 45



Gardens special

It's time to go wild!

Joe Swift's sneak preview of Chelsea

Caitlin Moran

Why I don't want a tidy garden



Alice Thomson

My favourite pets — 20,000 honeybees



Flower show special

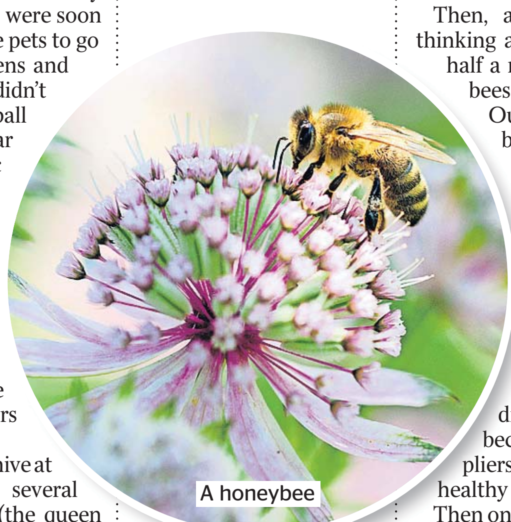
Wild gardening: 20,000 bees and me — my favourite pets

Alice Thomson kicks off this special gardens issue and explains why she loves her honeybees

It started with a swarm. It swooped through our garden in Devon on a sunny May afternoon and hung in a lilac bush, a dark, pulsating cluster of thousands of bees, sounding like drunk teenagers at their first festival, exuberant and mildly alarming. Then they veered into an old hive, and suddenly we were beekeepers.

We rang the local beekeeping association, which provided *Star Wars*-worthy suits, gloves and smoke guns to subdue the newcomers and showed us how to identify the imperious queen. The bees were soon part of the family, 20,000 more pets to go with the hamster, dogs, chickens and tortoise. And yet these pets didn't mind the children playing football around their hive, and were far more hard-working, energetic and efficient than us.

We soon worked out their rhythms. Some went in search of pollen every day while others stood on guard. The male drones did little but watch the football and make a noise; the females did most of the work. There were foragers, nursery bees, cleaners and undertakers.


A honeybee

The queen evidently left the hive at some stage, returning with several drones' genitals stuck in her (the queen mates with up to 20 drones at a time — each one inserts his genitals before they are ripped off after successfully mating), then laid tens of thousands of eggs that we didn't even have to midwife. It was mesmerising.

At dusk, if we went close to the hive, we could hear the throb of the colony, a constant heartbeat. During the day, like plane spotters, we would watch the bees taking off and landing. Then, in late summer, a kind man in his white suit came to ease out the old hanging frames. They were glistening with honey. He showed us how to put them into a cylinder and spin them until the liquid flew from the combs and dripped through a tap into old jam jars. Mesmerised by our pot of gold nectar, our honey years began.

The bees were fascinating, undemanding pets. They needed feeding with a sugar solution in the winter and monitoring for and treating the varroa mite that arrived in Britain in the 1990s and may kill them eventually. Occasionally a disgruntled group would swarm off in the spring to start a breakaway colony; we'd watch the dark cloud disappear and wish them luck. As we lay in the grass on summer days we could listen to their hum as they pottered about the garden, searching out the pollen, memorising the landscape and evaluating flower options.

Some years we were eating honey garnered from nearby lime trees, another year they discovered the lavender bushes in a neighbour's garden, and once they gorged on gorse. But I did sometimes feel guilty that we were stealing so much of their hard-earned food.

Then, after a few years, I stopped thinking about honey. When we moved half a mile away across the fields the bees decided not to come with us.

Our new house had older, darker bees who had lived in the walls of the stables for generations and had set up a vast network of combs between the floorboards. They hadn't been forced to share their food with humans, which may be why they were so mellow. I found these wild bees even more fascinating. For a start they were self-sufficient and didn't need any extra white sugar because humans weren't their suppliers, but they also seemed more healthy and less needy.

Then one day I bumped into a bee whisperer, Matt Somerville. I told him about our hundred-year-old wild bee colony and he volunteered to come and visit them. They immediately stung him when he put his head inside their hole, but, undeterred, he offered to come back and build them a second home to expand.

He called it a freedom hive then — now it's a rocket hive or bee rocket — and it looked extraordinary, made of three pieces of stag oak he had found in our woods with a log perched on top. He explained bees naturally live high up in trees in protective, well-insulated trunks. This is why his hives are often on stilts. They look like triffids, or rockets. We wouldn't get any honey, he explained, but these wild bees would love it. Once made, we put up the spindly structure in a sheltered spot, facing south, smeared the entrance hole with lemongrass and propolis, the antifungal resin-like substance that the bees make, and waited. Within three days they had arrived. The scout bees first, then there were thousands.


Alice Thomson

We now have three beeopolises, swarming with activity. Each hive is made from a single, hollowed-out log of larch. Matt then adds a reed hat known as a hackle to keep out the rain and provide insulation, and a removable base so we can see them at work.

There is no equipment needed. I rarely wear a suit; none of us has been stung. They go from hedgerow to field to garden, always foraging. They are obsessed by sweetpeas and honeysuckle, but they also like alder and hazel and willows in the spring, then apple, quince, and later ivy in the autumn. Sometimes they veer towards the thyme and rosemary. We are doing nothing but acting as hosts; they in return are pollinating the countryside. They are the easiest guests in the world.

Only now I can't stop reading bee books. Stephen Buchmann's is the latest; *What a Bee Knows* suggests these tiny creatures have hopes, dreams and even PTSD. They can demonstrate sophisticated emotions, from fear to optimism, irritation to playfulness, and can recognise human faces even though their brains are the size of poppy seeds. I began to find it hard to kill any of them if they flew into the kitchen.

Our honeybees need protecting. In America, where they rely on two million mobile colonies for the pollination of their avocados and almonds, billions die from the pesticides and psychological stress of being dumped far from their natural habitat. Not what vegans want to hear when they're eating their brunch. A third of the UK's honeybee population has been lost over the past decade due to intensive farming methods and disease.

> “I love the idea that I now run a rest and recuperation centre for wild bees

Bees have now become a cause. Ed Sheeran and David Beckham have installed hives, while Jeremy Clarkson bought a quarter of a million bees from eastern Europe. Membership of the British Beekeepers Association has increased from 8,500 in 2008 to 25,000 today.

The royal bees at Buckingham Palace became famous when it was discovered that they must be informed of Her Majesty's death. This week a hive is being built by the Newt estate at the Chelsea Flower Show, surrounded by nectar-rich planting. One of my oak-legged rockets will be at the stand.

It's the wild bees I love best, though; they feel like mythical creatures. In Hattie Ellis's book *Sweetness & Light*, she explains

CHRIS MCANDREW, JOHN HERSEY FOR THE TIMES; JONATHAN BUCKLEY



Caitlin Moran

that the earliest bee fossil, caught in a drop of amber, is 80 million years old. A cave painting near Valencia depicts Spanish hunters taking honey from wild bees 8,000 years ago. The ancient Egyptians kept bees in hives, and the Romans loved their honey.

Their feats are prodigious. Bees can fly 37 miles without a refill, their wings beat 230 times a second, and they can visit 10,000 flowers in 24 hours. Unlike my colleagues, who merely grunt their way through the day, bees perform elaborate dances to tell other workers how far away food sources are. Yet a worker only lives for about five weeks, collecting half a teaspoon of honey, which humans then nick. So I try not to do it too often.

Matt felt the same. At his cider apple orchard in Devon he used to love the sound of the bees, until one day they disappeared. So the carpenter and furniture maker set up Bee Kind Hives. "I didn't want to produce hives that looked like filing cabinets and were just honey factories," he says.

His hives imitate nature. "I just want to get the bees happy and thriving again, and this gives them some respite."

I love the idea that I now run a bee rest and recuperation centre, helping these vital insects regain their strength before they move on, and unlike other animal sanctuaries it costs nothing.

Bee-watching is just as satisfying as beekeeping; you only need a small plot of land, and there is no expensive equipment or rules. There are now more than 500 of Matt's Bee Kind Hives across the country providing bee respite from Cornwall to Dumfries. "We were always told bees didn't survive in the wild," Matt says. "Now we know they thrive."

My personal Eden

Caitlin Moran

We are now two thirds through "No Mow May" — a phrase that, if you say it quickly and often enough, very naturally and pleasingly segues into *Mahna Mahna* by the Muppets — and it's a subject that the British seem to find uniquely and adorably contentious.

No Mow May is the suggestion that gardeners desist from mowing their lawns for 30 days to mimic nature — which in May brings the rampant growth of grasses and wildflowers. In this lush habitat, insects get super-reproductive, thus kick-starting the cycle of "nature lunching on nature" that culminates in a June and July of bats, swallows, hedgehogs and other sundry Good Times items.

In short, if you furlough the Flymo until June and let your garden become a wildflower meadow, you will become the Adam or Eve of your own personal Eden.

The problem? Well, we British love our lawns. As evidenced by the heated reaction on Twitter: "No Mow May? Whoops! I didn't get the memo! Just annihilated a load of dandelions and daisies hahaha." "Sorry, but I don't want to have to fight my way through a thicket to get to the shed." "Only a privileged few can turn their garden into a wilderness. The rest of us need it for our kids to play football. This is woke, middle-class nonsense."

An Englishman's home may be his castle but his lawn is his territory, his socialising space — and his chance to triumph over the neighbours, with perfect stripes mown into his domestic cricket pitch. All across the world you can tell where expat Brits live: in the arid heat of Spain, Corfu or India, the Brits have a lozenge of green, maintained by endless sprinklers. A costly pet piece of Sussex, Surrey or Wales among the palms and prickly pears.

On top of this, we fear invaders. "My neighbours let their garden become overrun with weeds — thanks for all the seeds that blew into my garden!" On a small, closely packed island, it's very natural to look down on next door's garden and get tetchy about what their choices mean for you. In cities and suburbia we are all, inescapably, each other's landscapes.

> At first my 'meadow' just looked like a teenage boy's first beard

Last year, with my children grown and no longer needing a lawn for "twatting about", I did No Mow May on a quarter of my garden. As a small, tentative experiment. For the previous three years, I'd stood in the garden like a circus barker, shouting, "I have nesting boxes for you! Look! Expensive ones! Use them!" at the passing swifts, while pointing at my eaves. And then I realised: swifts will nest only where there is food. I needed to provide some kind of Bug Sainsbury's if I wanted them to become my new, screaming neighbours. I needed a meadow.

It was a slow start, as I love mowing my lawn. It's such an effective makeover. Like hoovering. So instantly neat and fresh! And for the first few weeks my "meadow" just looked like a teenage boy's first beard, the kind that makes you want to sigh: "Oh, just shave, for heaven's sake. Or shall I sneeze it off you?" It didn't look like a decision, but rather something I'd forgotten to do.

But then, as the summer rolled on, it slowly became my favourite part of the garden — even more than the black tulips or the acid acers or the upturned bucket I smoke on. First daisies and dandelions, then poppies, harebells, three different grasses and bronze fennel, like Bruges lace. The delight was what Isabella Tree — the great rewilding expert at Knepp, whom I interviewed recently — put her finger on: "the surprise". If you let even a tiny part of the garden just do what it wants to do, it will give you a new, unexpected gift every day. And save you heartache and work too: during that fierce August heat, it was the only part of the garden that stayed lush — as the plants, in all their deep wisdom, had picked the place that worked best for them.

In the end, I didn't mow until February. The dried grasses, in autumn, looked beautiful in the sideways sunlight, and then elegant in the frost. And now that it's growing again? Well, this year I'm giving the whole garden over to it. I'm now addicted to the surprises. I want to walk out every morning into a world that's new.

However, I am totally on the side of those who hate No Mow May. A garden is ultimately a place for choices — and you can choose sport or meadows, as you please. Children playing or swifts swooping low for gnats? Both options are wonderful. Every garden is magic.

But isn't it cool, thousands of years post-Eden, that we're still inventing new ones?

Sarah Raven's 11 best plants for pollinators

You don't need your own wildflower meadow to support pollinators. These are some of my favourite plants that any gardener can use to create sanctuaries in borders, pots and window boxes.

Korean mint A firm favourite with pollinators, this versatile plant is easy to grow and thrives irrespective of its conditions, reaching a metre or so tall with vivid purple spikes.

Wild marjoram One of the richest sources of pollen and nectar, this is long-flowering, drought-resistant and grows well in pots.

Allium bulgaricum Its tall stems and pretty hanging bells are brilliant for drawing pollinating insects into your garden — on occasion, you can expect to see more than 100 bee visitors at once. Easy to grow and incredibly long-living.

***Echium vulgare* 'Viper's Bugloss'** A gorgeous biennial, every flower thick with nectar, this plant will keep seeding itself in a sunny, well-drained spot and reappear year after year. Deadhead regularly to encourage further blooms.

Foxgloves With their early summer flowering, foxgloves fill a gap before the rest of the herbaceous perennials really get going. They are often visited by the garden bumblebee and the common carder bumblebee, as both varieties have extra-long tongues that can navigate past the bristles.

Ammi majus This romantic plant is a sort of domesticated form of hogweed, and its blooms are adored by pollinators. It will flower regularly, can self-sow and also makes a wonderful cut flower.

Ivy One of the last plants to flower in the season, ivy is often flocked with insects. Honeybees in particular love it for their last fix of sugar. Water and feed well in the summer and deadhead to encourage a second flush of flowers.

Single-flowered dahlias — 'Totally Tangerine' and 'Blue Bayou' These bright and bold garden favourites play host to all sorts of bees and butterflies, most notably the peacock, red admiral and tortoiseshell butterflies. If the sun's out you can expect visitors well into October, even as late as November.

Buddleia A particular favourite of queen bumblebees. Water and deadhead as often as you can and start a weekly feed after about a month. Prune back hard in early spring.



Sarah Raven

Grasses Areas of long grass can provide a perfect habitat for underappreciated insects, like moths, that also play a large environmental role.

Salvias One of the best plants to bring summer colour into the garden, building in stature and intensity right through to late autumn. Salvias like moist but free-draining soil.

sarahraven.com

Flower show special

Best in show! A sneak preview

Joe Swift has the inside track on the flower show. Here are his top picks

This spring has been rather unpredictable, to say the least. February was very dry, March very wet, in April and May we witnessed the full gamut of British weather. I've felt for those growing for Chelsea this year, but I know that down to the dedication and skill of extremely talented nurserymen and women my fears will have been allayed; there will be plenty of colour and drama to satiate the hungriest of garden lovers. There always is.

Back in the day we journalists would turn up on Sunday (the day before Chelsea's press day) to film. That was the first we saw of the gardens. These days we get tantalising glimpses through social media, pre-built images and nursery visits, so we have more of an idea what to expect. But for me that first walk around the Royal Hospital grounds is still super-exciting.

This year there are 12 show gardens (the biggies), seven sanctuary gardens, six all about plants gardens, eight balcony and container gardens and two feature gardens (paid for by the RHS and not judged). Many of the gardens represent charities because they were sponsored by Project Giving Back, a funding body.

The show gardens

Centrepoint Garden designed by Cleve West

Cleve West is one of the UK's most innovative designers, and we are all looking forward to seeing what he has created. His Chelsea track record is seriously strong: he has designed seven gardens, won six gold medals and was awarded best in show two years in a row.

This garden features a ruinous part-demolished house where over time nature has taken over (yes, weeds!) — a metaphor for what it means to be young and homeless. There's a painted backdrop (the pointillist style uses roughly 120,000 dots to represent the number of young homeless people in the UK), and Johnny Woodford, a sculptor, has made five bird boxes that play recordings of children playing, dogs barking, clocks chiming and conversation — a familiar soundscape many of us take for granted.

West said: "It's going to be a Marmite garden — people will either love it or hate it." As long as they're talking about it and the key issues it represents, he'll be happy.


Joe Swift

A Letter from a Million Years Past by Jihae Hwang

Jihae Hwang highlights how a rewilding project in her home country, Korea, has helped to prevent native plants from becoming extinct. Her garden represents the medicinal herbal colony located in the eastern part of Jirisan, known as the "mother mountain" of Korea. It looks like a landscape rather than a garden (Monty Don and I will no doubt be revisiting that debate: "Is it a replica of a natural garden or is it a landscape?") with some serious rocks (more than 200 tonnes), a stream and Korean species plants. For me its success lies in how natural it looks — not easy to achieve in a three-week build.

Horatio's Garden by Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg

Horatio's Garden is a fabulous charity putting accessible gardens into spinal injury units. Many of the gardens will live on after Chelsea — this one is going to the NHS Princess Royal spinal injuries centre in Sheffield.

The design looks great on paper. The key features are an organic garden pod to shelter in, tactile stone cairns and a sparkling, cast-steel water table (made in Sheffield) to listen to. The planting is inspired by the wooded valleys of Sheffield. Shrubs, selected for extended seasonal interest, include *Rosa mutablis*, *Hydrangea petiolaris* and *Aruncus* 'Horatio' — an essential in every Horatio's Garden.

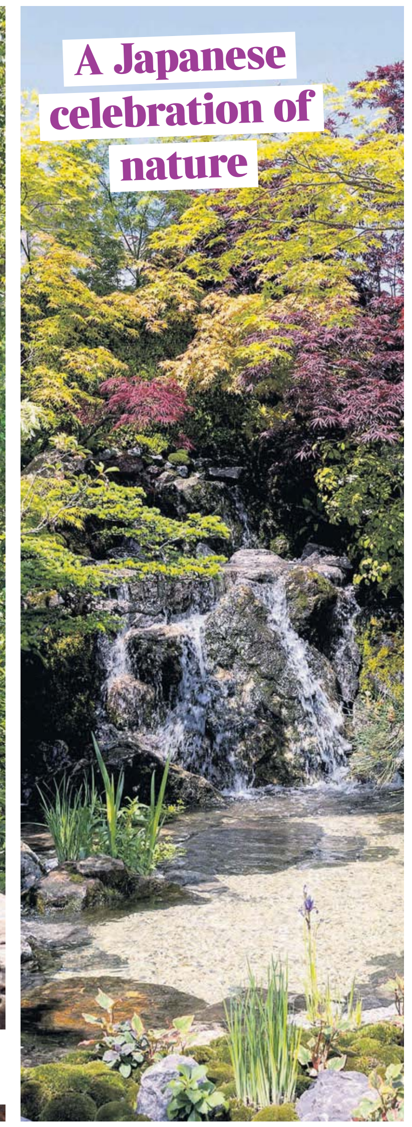
The Savills Garden by Mark Gregory

Mark Gregory has built umpteen Chelsea gardens, and will be looking for nothing less than a gold medal this year. His garden aims to evoke the experience of stepping into the intimate walled garden of a country hotel. At the heart of the garden is a working kitchen and adjoining dining area for a "from plot to plate" experience.

Environmentally sensitive, hard landscaping materials such as reclaimed brick, pantiles, Yorkshire flagstone and cement-free concrete form the structure of this sustainable garden, which will be used to teach cookery skills to young people at a residential centre in Nottinghamshire.



The Royal Entomological Society Garden by Tom Massey



Samaritans' Listening Garden by Darren Hawkes

This garden celebrates 70 years of the charity, and is inspired by the stories of people who found the courage to reach out when they were struggling with their mental health. Darren Hawkes has lost close friends to suicide and was inspired by his work as a listening volunteer. His garden will relocate to different Samaritans branches after the show.

There is a series of suspended concrete panels creating views and visual layering along with the planting. There's also talk of a fabulous characterful elm collection.

The Nurture Landscapes Garden by Sarah Price

Sarah Price's ephemeral, painterly style and beautiful use of colour is always something to savour at Chelsea. The inspiration for this garden has been drawn from the paintings of Cedric Morris and the plants collected and bred by him (many of them iris varieties) at Benton End in Hadleigh, Suffolk.

This all sounds lovely, and I'm sure it will be, but irises are very tricky to get into perfect flower (or beautiful bud) for Chelsea, especially with the recent weather, so this is where any jeopardy lies. Of course, there are other plants (in a palette of plums, mauves, olive yellow, creamy browns), and Price will have plan B, C, D etc to fall back on.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show runs from May 23 - 27

Centre for Mental Health's The Balance Garden by Wild City Studio (Jon Davies and Steve Williams)

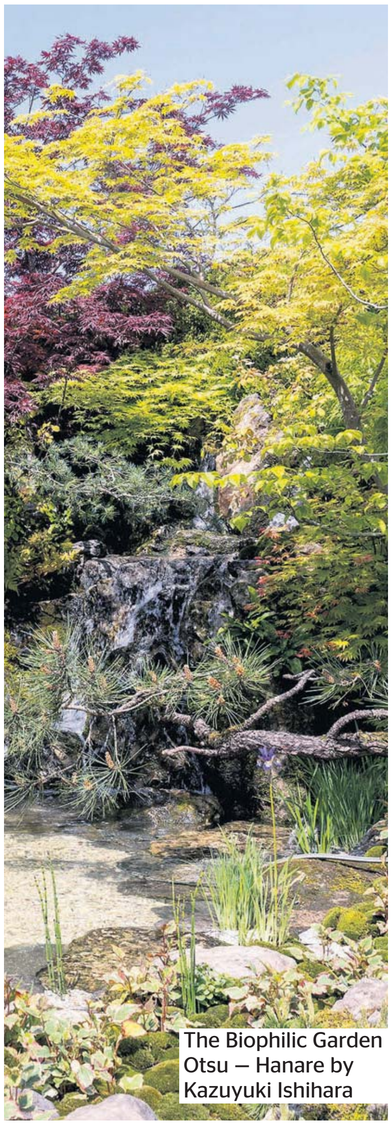
This garden is made up of waste materials (aggregates, concrete, steel) and has a mushroom den made from a steel-clad shipping container at its heart. Wildflowers, grasses and hardy shrubs work from wetland towards a denser, shadier canopy of food forestry and "edimentals" (a crossbreed between edibles and ornamentals — essentially, good looking edibles), while weeds are celebrated as an important part of urban ecology.

Memoria & GreenAcres Transcendence Garden by Gavin McWilliam and Andrew Wilson

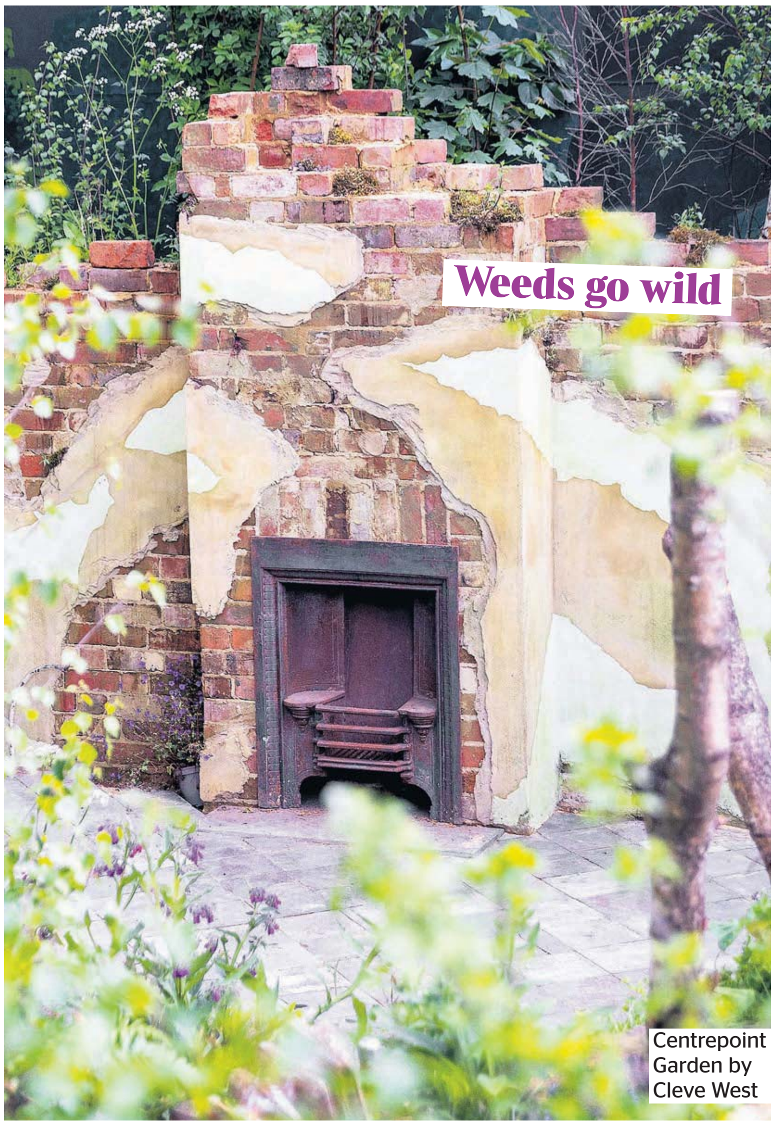
This garden looks like a very Zen space, reflecting the emotional and cultural shared experience at the end of life. There's a dramatic cantilevered canopy, tall, light-diffusing trees and water mirroring the sky. The different planting groups create layers of interest that change as one moves. It looks very different to any of the others — its success lies in creating a fully immersive experience in the middle of a busy show.

of Chelsea's finest gardens

COVER AND BELOW: TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



The Biophilic Garden Otsu — Hanare by Kazuyuki Ishihara



Centrepoint Garden by Cleve West

Weeds go wild

The Myeloma UK Garden — A Life Worth Living by Chris Beardshaw

Chris Beardshaw is pretty much a permanent fixture at the show, and much admired for his beautiful planting. The garden marks the 25th anniversary of Myeloma UK, a charity whose goal is to find a cure for this type of blood cancer.

The garden encourages us to take time to absorb and celebrate the delicate intricacies of nature and art. Aquilegas, geraniums and *Symphytum* bathe in the dappled light beneath trees and are surrounded by shrubs including acers, *Ginkgo biloba* and *Cornus kousa*.



Samaritans' Listening Garden by Darren Hawkes

The Fauna & Flora Garden by Jilayne Rickards

This sounds like a fun one to film in. The garden maps the journey of an eco-tourist on a gorilla trek. Along the way is a medicinal garden shaded by eucalyptus and banana trees, a kiosk selling artisanal crafts, and … a true-to-life gorilla nest (of course!).

The garden demonstrates the critical importance of protecting endangered species and how this can be achieved by putting people and collaboration at the heart of conservation efforts.

The Royal Entomological Society Garden by Tom Massey

Tom Massey is a Chelsea regular and has made some fine gardens before. This one is all about insects, with an outdoor laboratory whose roof structure is inspired by a compound insect eye. The lab is used for scientific research, monitoring and studying insects visiting the various habitats in the garden.

Water, a dead-tree sculpture and biodiverse planting come together in what looks like a lively space.

The RBC Brewin Dolphin Garden by Paul Hervey Brookes

This garden draws inspiration from the way knowledge is passed down from generation to generation and interpreted for the modern world. There's a hand-built oak pavilion structure with a bespoke metalwork roof and three porcelain sculptures. The plants aim to create a space that is biodiverse and air-purifying, with successional planting to provide a range of habitats.

The sanctuary gardens

The Boodles British Craft Garden by Thomas Hoblyn
Last year Hoblyn won gold with a great little garden. This year he aims to celebrate British craftmakers. It looks as though a lot of collaboration work has gone into the project, which has an arbour, a water sculpture and a collection of woodland-inspired furnishings.

The Biophilic Garden Otsu — Hanare by Kazuyuki Ishihara
The brief is simple — it's all about biophilia, a love of living things. In Japan a *hanare* is a small house separated from the main building; here the hanare is a place of healing and calm from which you can observe nature.

Cavernoma on My Mind by Taina Suonio and Anne Hamilton
A cavernoma is a lesion made up of abnormal blood vessels, often found in the brain or spine. The garden is divided into sections, each depicting feelings or symptoms that are common among cavernoma patients, such as fragility of life, unconditional love and a fresh start. Above the planting, glass steps ascend to a viewing platform and a water feature.

Hamptons Mediterranean Garden by Filippo Dester
This one looks like a pretty aspirational and sociable "outdoor room", with a kitchen and alfresco dining area. The palette of drought-tolerant Mediterranean plants includes clouds of scented shrubs and aromatic herbs.

London Square Community Garden by James Smith
This is a community garden where people can meet, relax, share food and connect with nature. There's a pergola, an outdoor kitchen and communal table for all to use. Elements will be relocated to the Doddington & Rollo community roof garden in Battersea, south London.

The National Brain Appeal's Rare Space by Charlie Hawkes
Hawkes made a fabulous garden last year. This year he has taken inspiration from people living with rare forms of dementia, particularly visual and spacial forms of the disease.

There are three seating areas with visually contrasting shelters of bright colours to help visitors to explore the garden independently. It looks like one of those gardens that may need a degree of understanding to fully be appreciated, and I am looking forward to seeing his planting in a bigger plot.

The RSPCA Garden by Martyn Wilson
This garden marks the RSPCA's 200th birthday by creating outdoor spaces for all creatures to share. In the corner is a contemporary structure akin to a wildlife observation hide with views out into the space. There's a natural stone feature wall, bird-nesting boxes and a rill. The planting is naturalistic, with plenty of pollinator-friendly plants.

The all about plants gardens

After the success of these gardens last year, there are six inside the Floral Marquee this time around. They highlight the role specialist growers play in UK horticulture and must involve a minimum of 80 per cent planting.

Choose Love Garden by Jane Porter
Particularly pertinent. Inspired by refugee migration routes, it explores the concept of desire lines — paths we create where no formal routes exist.

The Natural Affinity Garden for Aspens by Camellia Taylor
Aspens is a charity that supports people on the autism spectrum and with learning disabilities. The curved design reflects the neurons and plants roots spreading through the garden from the nucleus seating area.

The School Food Matters Garden by Harry Holding
A forageable landscape where children can explore nature and be inspired by a diverse range of edible, climate-adapted plants along the way.

The Sadler's Wells East Garden by Alexa Ryan-Mills
The plants are meant to be the stars of the show and have been chosen to represent movement as they echo layers, patterns and shapes of dance.

The Talitha Arts Garden by Joe and Laura Carey
This garden celebrates the arts and their therapeutic power to restore the lives of those who have suffered trauma. It contains 250 handmade white porcelain butterflies that pour from a sculpted chrysalis.

The Teapot Trust: Elsewhere Garden by Semple Begg
This garden takes inspiration from Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, Oz and Wonderland to represent a child's imagination as it blossoms in response to art therapy. It will be very colourful — I reckon I'll need to take my shades for this one.

Joe Swift is presenting at the Chelsea Flower Show for the BBC this year. BBC1 programmes are on tomorrow (6pm), Wednesday (7pm) and Friday (7.30pm). BBC2 broadcasts in the evening on Monday (7.30pm) and Tuesday to Friday (8pm)

Flower show special

Clueless about plants? We'll deliver a garden in a box

Gardeners who don't know where to start have found a new solution. Maria Lally reports



Like so many of us, Henry Bartlam found himself wandering around a garden centre in 2020 wondering what on earth to buy. Bartlam, 38, was in advertising at the time. "I thought, there must be a way to help people create their dream garden with none of the guesswork of what to buy and where to plant it," he says. "There must be a need for something more accessible for a younger or more time-poor generation of gardeners. I wondered whether a painting by numbers approach would work. It was a lightbulb moment. I messaged my old colleague Ed about starting a business."

The result was Dig Club, founded in 2021 by Bartlam, Ed Maitland Smith, and their friends Ben Davies and the award-winning garden designer Alex Hollingsworth. Essentially, you pick the theme that's right for you, such as the English country garden-style The Cottage, the calming, aromatic Mediterranean or the bright and exotic Jungle. You set your measurements and they deliver the plants to your home, ready to be installed with simple instructions. After that you receive aftercare tips by WhatsApp.

"It really is like a home-recipe box," Bartlam says. "We work on everything from window boxes to pot-only backyards to blank-canvas gardens, or those who want beautiful flowerbeds but don't know where to start, or don't want to drag 19 plants home from the garden centre only to see half of them die."

The team's gardening abilities, they tell me, range from "professional, to willing and enthusiastic".

"I've always loved gardens and plants, but I'm not an expert," Bartlam says. "I spent my childhood tracking my dad around his garden in the countryside, learning a bit as I went along. And as soon as I had some outdoor space in London I tried, failed, and eventually got the hang of it because I was passionate, happy to put the time in, and discovered the joy of watching things grow."

Maitland Smith recalls: "When Henry got in touch that day in the garden centre I said a resounding yes. My grandmother and parents were big gardeners, and I had started growing on my north-facing balcony years before, but with mixed success. What that showed me was there are still lots of barriers to gardening. Even when you know a bit it can still feel like a hobby that requires an immense amount of knowledge, and that knowledge isn't always communicated in the most exciting way.

"We thought this would be a good chance to demystify gardening and make it more appealing to those who enjoy it but don't feel they have the time or expertise that, say, their parents do."

It brings to mind what Jamie Oliver did to food in the early 2000s, when Oliver's bish-bash-bosh style — making dishes that were easy to pull together but looked impressive on the table — ushered in a new way of cooking that appealed to a younger audience and replaced the complicated, Cordon Bleu approach that came before. Bartlam agrees. "Why can't people who don't have time to read all the books or watch all the gardening shows have nice gardens?"

During lockdown, of course, there was a gardening boom. Between March 2020 and April 2022 sales of bedding plants and shrubs at Tesco soared by almost 50 per cent, and the Horticultural Trades Association estimated that three million new gardeners emerged during lockdown, 2.3 million of those continuing their hobby long after the world opened up again.

Along with Dig Club are similar bespoke gardening services such as Border in a Box and Garden on a Roll. There's also Pot Gang, a subscription programme run by a young couple hoping to get more people into growing their own herbs and vegetables. It's little wonder when the health benefits of gardening have been so well documented in recent years, with GPs now prescribing it for anxiety, depression and loneliness.

> "It makes gardening more appealing to those who enjoy it but don't have time or expertise

In 2022 researchers at the University of Florida found that gardening twice a week lowered stress, anxiety and depression in healthy women who hadn't gardened before. "Past studies have shown that gardening can help to improve the mental health of people who have existing medical conditions or challenges," said the study's author Professor Charles Guy. "Our study shows that healthy people can also experience a boost in mental wellbeing through gardening."

The new breed of gardeners are conscious of the impact their hobby can have on the planet as well. "Every bed we put in, every border we refresh or plant we use to fill a balcony feels like we're pulling it back a little," Maitland Smith says. "Especially when you see the bees flock to it."

Dig Club uses sustainably sourced plants from UK growers and peat-free compost, which is better for the environment. "We also use loads of pollinator plants to get the bees in," Bartlam says.

They encourage gardeners to embrace weeds that protect the soil and nurture insects and bees.

"We're real advocates for leaving things to grow to see what happens," Maitland Smith says, "and if it's something you like the look of and makes you happy, then to leave it. Our hope is to continue making gardening easier for more people who love it as much as we do."

Foolproof bedding plants

For sunny spots

Nemesia An incredibly productive flowering plant that comes in many colours and likes well-draining soil.

Lobelia Showers of flowers erupt from this trailing plant in the summer and autumn. Loves moist but well-draining soil and works as well in pots as in the ground. Often in blue but comes in other colours.

Cosmos Blooming in full sun, these flowers are a magnet for pollinators and give your bed beautiful height and variety. Comes in soft dusky shades as well as brighter colours.

Snapdragon This is a firm favourite with children and pollinators. Its gleaming flowers come in many shades and bloom through summer and autumn. Loves a sunny spot.

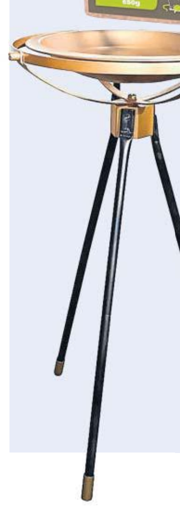
For shady spots

Viola A hardy, varied and upright plant (the more exciting relative of the pansy). Blooms from spring through autumn with

Go wild! Make your outdoor space eco-friendly

▼ Coco Grow peat-free compost, £5.99 for 9 litres, thecompostshop.co.uk





◀ Gardman birdbath, £32, argos.co.uk





◀ The Ocean Collection pot, £14cm, £6.99, elho.com

▶ Pollinator Beebom Seedbom, £4.50, kabloom.co.uk



◀ Darlac bamboo trowel, £15.29, all-green.co.uk

▼ Hedgehog Care Home, £64.95, arkwildlife.co.uk



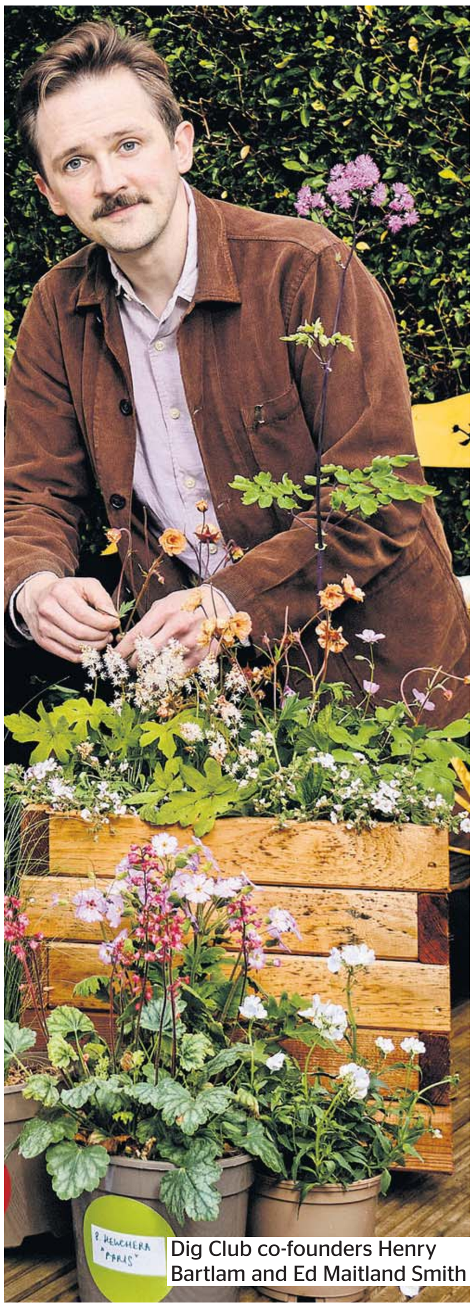


◀ Bark insect hotel, £14.99, gardenesque.com



▲ Eco organic compost, £95.95 for 750 litres, thisiseco.co.uk

CHRISTOPHER L PROCTOR FOR THE TIMES. WOODEN PLANTERS FROM A SELECTION AT B&Q, DIY.COM



Dig Club co-founders Henry Bartlam and Ed Maitland Smith

edible flowers that look great in salads and on cakes.
Bacopa An easy-to-care-for trailing plant that produces tons of flowers from May to October and comes in whites, creams, pinks and blues.
Begonia Vibrant flowering plant that doesn't like direct sunlight. Blooms through the summer and comes in trailing and upright varieties.
Forget-me-not Does just as well in shade as in sun and produces delicate clouds of blue flowers. Easy to care for and spreads gently, meaning more and more flowers year on year.



▲ Self-watering recycled trough planter, £34.99, gardenesque.com



◀ Wildlife World bird nester, £17.99, johnlewis.com



▲ The Butterfly Bar Growbar, £12.50, shop.kew.org

On a budget — my top tips

You don't have to spend a fortune to have a perfect patch, says Sidonie Wilson

CHRISTOPHER L PROCTOR FOR THE TIMES. SHIRT AND SHORTS FROM WITHNOTHINGUNDERNEATH.COM



Sidonie Wilson

Gardening may be a wholesome pastime — but it is not cheap. According to B&Q, in the UK we spent £5.4 billion last year on garden supplies such as plants, soil and pots, and equipment from sheds to tools. The garden centre is full of temptation, but you can make your patch beautiful without spending a fortune. As a millennial obsessed with gardens during a cozzie livs crisis (as we call it), I have no choice.

Grow herbs (yes, even the supermarket ones)

Even if you have to plant a new set each year, herbs are an inexpensive treat. But have you ever managed to keep supermarket herb pots alive longer than a couple of weeks? You're not alone. It's down to how they are grown: the seedlings are put too close together in one small pot, which is why they never survive past one or two lasagne servings. When you buy fresh herbs from the supermarket, take them out of the pot and rub away the soil. Simply transfer each plant into its own pot. Snip just above the side shoots, which will encourage your herbs to bush out.

Share cuttings and divide plants with neighbours and friends

"Gardeners are very generous people," says the garden designer and Times writer Joe Swift, and I agree. Just recently, I divided my iris and offered a rhizome to one neighbour, which resulted in an over-the-fence trade for their extendable shears. "Ask your friends, neighbours or literally anyone to propagate from their plants," Swift says. "There are ways of growing from very little — you don't even need to go near a garden centre." If you're fairly green-fingered, growing from cuttings is the best way to obtain new plants without getting your credit card out.

Plant in a windowbox or planter

Two words: instant gratification. They're small but look mighty and work in any size garden. Large containers can cost a small fortune, so scour second-hand marketplaces, or if you're DIY savvy, build your own from cheap corrugated steel. The container gardening expert Arthur Parkinson buys vintage dolly tubs from eBay and drills holes in the bottom for drainage. Don't be put off by the size of planters or raised beds; you don't have to fill the whole thing with expensive soil and compost. Alessandro Bitale, the urban gardens expert known on Instagram as Spicy Moustache, has a good hack using cheap materials. "Stack unused cardboard boxes, twigs, logs, excess wood chips, leaves, or literally anything you can find to fill the space. Just top with peat-free compost, plant and water and you have yourself a full raised bed." Geraniums are great for window boxes — they're colourful and very easy to keep flowering (and alive). Or choose perennials such as violas, pansies and periwinkles so they flower year on year. Though they are smaller and less attractive than plants in full flower, they are cheaper, and likely to establish better.

Avoid buying expensive compost and mulch

Make your own compost heap or use lawn and hedge cuttings as a thin layer of mulch. Or try your hand at DIY leaf mould. It involves less work, heat and slime than a compost heap. Leaf mould breaks down through fungal activity, and makes a great potting compost or mulch. Store fallen leaves in a heavyweight bin bag (or create a leaf mould storage bay if you have space). Punch a few holes in the bag with a pencil to give good drainage, turn over, stash away and forget about it for a year. If it has to be bought, some shops and nurseries are switching to own-brand composts. Dobbies is charging only £6.99 for a 50-litre bag (dobbies.com), and Wickes offers the same for £7 (wickes.co.uk).

Try end-of-season sales at the garden centre, and even Gumtree

If you're going to buy plants in flower, look at garden centres' end-of-season sales, or go to flower shows for good deals. I bought my tulip bulbs in November from my local nursery at half-price, and they've bloomed just as well this spring. "Second-hand marketplaces are great for gardeners," says the shopping expert Alex Stedman, the founder of The Frugality blog. "People are always moving and it's a great place to find not only plants, but also pots and even used paving stones. We sold two large cactus plants on Gumtree last month — they went to a good home and we made some extra cash."

Divide your plants as soon as you buy

Rather than buying dozens of expensive potted plants, buy perennials you can divide. Try smaller numbers for starters — buy three (there are often three-for deals), take out of the pots and immediately split the plant in three. Geums, ferns and hardy geraniums look good and cope well. Dig and plant your nine plants in your bed and next year when they've spread, you can dig up, split, and plant again.

Trees on the cheap

Trees aren't always expensive. Yes, a giant fiddle-leaf fig tree from your local trendy plant shop will have a triple-figure price tag, but a gala apple tree can cost as little as £49.99 for a 9-litre potted one (dobies.co.uk) — even less if you buy it bare root. Other affordable options include the fast-growing eucalyptus (£20.24 for 2 litres, crocus.co.uk) or the popular Japanese maples (£24.50 for 3 litres, wilko.com). Olive trees are certainly in vogue to have on your patio and Stedman buys hers for only £25 from Morrisons — considering their size and longevity, that is real bang for your buck.

Flower show special

Gardeners' question time: our

From roses to lawns, Stephen Anderton has all the answers

Q How can I get rid of aphids without using pesticides?

A That depends on which kind of aphid you're dealing with; there are so many kinds, some of which, like the woolly aphid, are pretty nasty. If you mean ordinary greenfly, they are prolific, but not well armoured, so thumb and forefinger and regular blasts of soapy water (a glug of washing liquid) poured over the plants they are on will reduce them to harmless levels, indoors and out. As the weather warms up, their natural predators, ladybirds and lacewings, will start to keep numbers down too.



Q I want to install a bird table, but there are several cats belonging to neighbours that come into my garden. Is there anything I can plant that will keep them away?

A Let's assume the cats are indeed staying (more than likely) despite electronic scarers and you planting *Coleus caninus* (also known as "scaredy cat" because its scent is said to deter felines). So how to keep them off the table? Make it tall and set it out of easy springing distance from other bits of garden furniture or trees. Then surround your table with a wide, ornamentally contained circle of holly leaves — or you could even construct a wide, circular, hollow pouffe of chicken wire, artistically painted.

Q What are the best plants to attract bees to my garden?

A You can really hear bees buzzing around inside foxglove flowers. But they also love many other plants including lavender, marjoram, globe thistles and sea hollies, buddleias, sedum, thyme, penstemon, campanula, ivy, teasels and single dahlias and roses, lime trees and robinias — plants that have plenty of nectar to offer.

Q My agapanthus didn't flower last year. I've read that feeding in autumn is key. Have I missed my window and can I get it to flower again?

A If the plant is tired and has stopped flowering, then you are unlikely to have flowers this year, but it's not entirely a lost cause. Give it an all-purpose fertiliser such as phostrogen through the early summer (nothing too high-nitrogen) to make it vigorous again, then dose it with high-potash fertiliser through August-September. Only repot it (now) if it's truly, desperately pot-bound.

Q Is it too late to plant clematis now?

A Clematis can go in pretty much any time. But if you plant one now it will need follow-up watering to ensure it establishes well and performs this year. Try a canful every fortnight. Set a bottomless plastic bottle among the roots so you can water "underneath" the plant, to encourage its roots downwards. Mulch well to prevent evaporation.

Q The slugs and snails seem so much worse this year. I've tried all the natural suggestions. What else could work?

A I don't know precisely what you've tried, but probably your best solution, although it's not an instant one, is to create a pond that will help to build up the numbers of natural predators in your garden. You'll still have slugs and snails, but the damage will be considerably less. Resist growing the kinds of plants that are particularly susceptible; perhaps settle for seeing hostas in other people's gardens. Keep other susceptible plants and seedlings sunny and airy and free of dead leaves, and make sure not to water late in the day so the soil is wet and welcoming at night.


Stephen Anderton

Q We have inherited an AstroTurf lawn in our new house — what's the best way of turning the area back over to grass?

A It's pretty much like taking up a carpet. Get up an edge and tear it back. Your local council will tell you how to recycle it. Remove any solid edging foundations. There should be nothing inimical to growth in any of the fine substrates used to level the space, so you can work these into the soil as you prepare the ground for returfing.

Q Lots of my friends have irrigation systems. Should I get one?

A If you need to irrigate your flower beds, then you are supporting a wasteful garden. There's nothing wrong with sticking the odd can on a heavy drinker, of course, but irrigating whole beds should be unnecessary. Use

expert solves your problems

GARETH IWAN JONES FOR THE TIMES; GROUND PICTURE/SHUTTERSTOCK





Irrigation systems can be wasteful — use a watering can instead

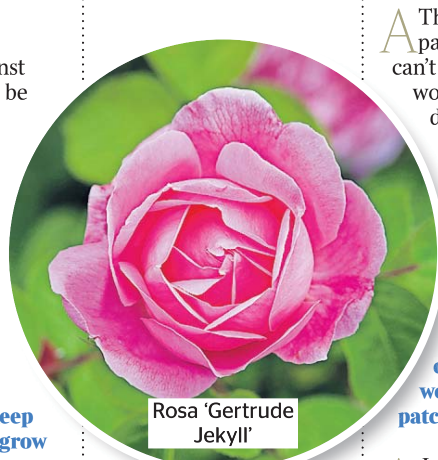
grey water (waste water from baths, sinks and washing machines) and rainwater to water your plants. A drip irrigation system with a timer for a modest number of patio pots — which will use much less water than watering whole flower beds and give so much pleasure — makes more sense, but you would be buying all that plastic kit instead of simply using your old watering can.

Q Can you train wisteria to the wall and remove it later on?

A People with painted houses sometimes train wisteria against heavy cables from which they can be let forward every few years for repainting. It's a huge weight to handle and a big operation. You still end up cutting a lot free. It's easier to reduce the plant's coverage by pruning, painting between the remainder, then regrowing it to fill the gaps.

Q I've been trying for years to cut my lavender back and stop it being so woody, but have had no luck. Should I just keep it as it is and let it be rustic and grow naturally or start again?

A It's true that a gangly, moth-eaten lavender hedge looks pretty unattractive. On the other hand, an old, gnarled, bare grey-trunked lavender the size of a wheelbarrow can be rather wonderful. It depends what you like. I think you need to start again because very old lavenders can never be made tightly bushy once more. Rip it out, and put in some new plants. If you do keep the old ones, don't stop your regular late summer trimming.



Rosa 'Gertrude Jekyll'

Q Our palm tree was 3ft when we moved in. It's now nearly 20ft high and quite top-heavy. What's the best way to cut it back?

A This must be the hardy Chusan fan palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, and you can't cut it back because if you do it won't sprout again. The best you can do is to make the most of the light and view underneath it by cutting all the dead fronds back to the trunk. Only the European dwarf fan palm, *Chamaerops humilis*, is bushy.

Q I've got a patch of lawn that has died from a combination of shade and overgrown plants around it. Is it worth trying to reseed or should I patch it up with turf?

A In such difficult conditions I'd go for turf — otherwise you could have a long wait where you are unable to use the space while the seed establishes properly, even if it's a dedicated shade mix. What matters most in this difficult spot is the preparation. Make sure you open up the soil a little first, with a fork, not turning it over, but easing to a depth of 10-15cm, and for the turf's future success see what you can do to reduce that shade. Perhaps if grass won't grow well, you should pave that troublesome patch, make it a shady flower bed, or (the scruffy option) surface it with bark mulch.

Q I'm not very green-fingered — what can I put into a window box outside that takes the least amount of care?

A I would recommend trailing ivy-leaf geraniums. They flower for ever, are totally forgiving about being denied the watering can, take heat and even moderate wind, and scrape through inner-city winters. Plus they have no real problems with pests. They are very traditional, yes, but for very good reasons.

Q What are the hardiest plants to put in a container herb garden? My mint always dies.

A The most interesting perennial herbs are short-lived ones so my advice would be to plant pot herbs afresh every spring. Most herbs also need excellent drainage, which life in a pot rarely provides. If you really want year-on-year plants, try chives, marjoram, fennel and bay.

Q I want to grow a rose that actually smells of something. Which varieties are best?

A There are plenty of sweet-scented roses to choose from: shrubs and climbers, delightful historic roses (often once-flowering varieties) or perhaps modern repeat flowerers bred from them, such as David Austin's English Roses. His website has good lists of roses with many virtues including perfume (davidaustinroses.co.uk). I recommend 'Gertrude Jekyll', 'Munstead Wood', 'Zéphirine Drouhin', 'Roseraie de l'Hay', 'Mme Isaac Péreire' and 'Paul's Himalayan Musk'.

Q I want to grow some salad vegetables but only have a balcony — what should I try?

A I assume that your balcony is sunny. You must have tomatoes, perhaps some dwarf varieties in pots or even in baskets, and dwarf French beans. Maybe a big pot of baby carrots, which are so delicious. But for everything else, go for a fast-turnaround, eat-young approach because leafy veg and salads don't like sitting with hot roots. Finally, make sure you have successional plantings, cropped hard, of rocket, chard, different lettuces, parsley and sugar peas. These can be bought as baby plants rather than seed if that's what you prefer.

Q What's the most attractive climber to grow over a new shed/home office?

A For successful coverage you need a succession of plants, not just one. Make your summer scaffolding from the purple and grey-leaved Teinturier grape vine, *Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea'. Plant blue *Clematis alpina* or *macropetala* varieties to clad its bare legs in spring, followed by wine-coloured *Clematis* 'Polish Spirit', 'Niobe' and 'Abundance' in summer and autumn.

Q My box hedge died in the snow during winter and hasn't come back to life. What's a good replacement?

A Your hedge won't have succumbed to the cold (box is bone hardy), but from the last ravages of box blight contracted in the damp late autumn. It will probably sprout again, but also probably succumb again. How tall was the hedge? For chest-high I'd try *Pittosporum tenuifolium* or *Phillyrea angustifolia*. If knee-high the Japanese holly *Ilex crenata* is acceptable and, given lots of clipping, even *Lonicera nitida* 'Maigrun' will do.

Q What is a nice plant to cheer up my front doorstep?

A If the spot is sunny you could try one of the dense, small bushy roses 'Little White Pet', or the pink 'The Fairy', which never seems to be out of flower. It's also perfect for buttonholes. In partial shade, try a classy evergreen, such as the long-flowering, superbly scented *Daphne* 'Jacqueline Postill'. It's a slender 1m-1.5m and everyone will stop to look at it.

Yes, you can eat yourself fitter

The right food can be as beneficial as taking 4,000 extra steps a day. Peta Bee reports

If you are the kind of person who runs, cycles and works out, but also has a diet that's filled with processed, sugary and refined foods, it might be time for a rethink. Scientists have now proven that consuming enough healthy, wholesome foods can have a dramatic effect on your cardiovascular fitness — the equivalent of taking 4,000 more steps a day. And that change can occur in as little as four days.

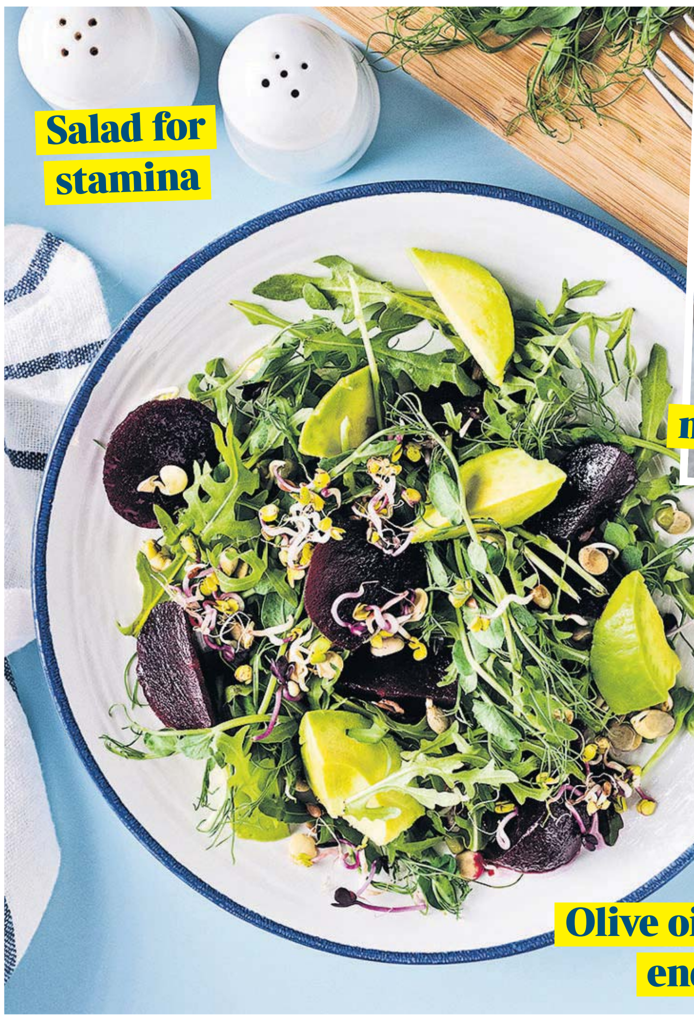
Cardio fitness is increased through aerobic activity, yet sports scientists have long suspected that in people who exercise in similar amounts it is other factors, including diet, that contribute to superior fitness. In a study of 2,380 adults published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology this month, researchers from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston first put participants through rigorous initial fitness tests on indoor bikes. Their diets were then analysed with a questionnaire, with higher scores given for eating vegetables, fruits, whole grains, nuts, legumes, fish and healthy fats, and lower scores given for those who consumed processed foods, red meat and alcohol.

The results revealed that, after adjusting for other factors including age and exercise habits, the healthier eaters performed better in aerobic-fitness tests. "This study provides some of the strongest and most rigorous data thus far to support the connection that better diets may lead to higher fitness," said Dr Michael Mi, a cardiologist and senior author of the paper. "The improvement in fitness we observed in participants with better diets was similar to the effect of taking 4,000 more steps each day."

To find out why, Mi and his team took blood samples from 1,154 of the participants to establish levels of 201 metabolites; substances such as amino acids that are produced during digestion and circulate in the blood during exercise. Eating healthily resulted in the release of specific metabolites that improved fitness, Mi said, "which could be one possible way that it leads to improved fitness and ability to exercise".

Switching to a Mediterranean-style diet with fresh, whole foods and plenty of leafy green vegetables, healthy fats, white meat such as chicken, or fish, nuts and low-sugar drinks such as water and milk is, Mi said, "a great place to start". Indeed, you could be reaping the benefits in as little as four days, according to researchers from Saint Louis University reporting in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition. They showed that people on a Mediterranean diet ran a 5K race 6 per cent faster.

Specific foods can also provide a boost when combined with regular exercise.


Salad for stamina


Milk helps muscle repair


Olive oil to enhance endurance

GETTY IMAGES

Your energy levels, powers of recovery and overall fitness are hugely influenced by what you eat, says the sports nutritionist Rob Hobson. "For most people wanting to get a bit fitter it's much more effective to get what you need from real food than from supplements because food contains so many additional nutrients and compounds that aid the body's adaptation to exercise."

A blueberry smoothie will help to prevent muscle damage

Blueberries are rich in antioxidant compounds such as anthocyanins, proanthocyanidins, resveratrol and flavonols, "all of which have anti-inflammatory properties that help muscles to recover more quickly after intense exercise", Hobson says. Last year researchers in New Zealand asked a group of exercisers to drink a blueberry smoothie made with 200g of frozen blueberries, a banana and 200ml of apple juice, or a placebo smoothie made without the berries, before and after a tough workout in the gym. Results showed that the blueberry smoothie group experienced accelerated muscle repair and faster recovery of muscle strength.

Add olive oil to boost your running

Rich in monounsaturated fatty acids, including the potent oleic acid that is known to reduce inflammation in the body, olive oil is good for the heart and for general health, but there's emerging evidence that it can also boost your fitness. "Studies have suggested that adding olive oil to your diet enhances muscle metabolism and potentially boosts endurance exercise capacity," Hobson says. Researchers from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) recently reported in the journal Nutrients that olive oil contains plant compounds, including hydroxytyrosol, that have potent antioxidant benefits for runners. According to Justin Roberts, associate professor at ARU, the olive oil improved key markers of running performance, including perceived exertion — how hard runners felt they were pushing — and recovery. "We found that 16 days' supplementation could have a positive influence on aerobic exercise, most notably at low-intensity levels of recreational runners," Roberts said.

Eat a salad of leafy greens and beetroot to increase stamina

Rocket, baby spinach leaves, radishes, Swiss chard, oak leaf lettuce and beetroot are all rich sources of inorganic dietary nitrates, compounds that are converted by the body to nitrite and then nitric oxide, which is known to relax and widen blood vessels. A daily dose of these nitrate-containing foods has been shown in studies at the University of Exeter to increase stamina, enabling people to exercise for 16 per cent longer than usual and to enhance performance in endurance activities. And just one serving of a super-salad a day could boost muscle strength and function in the legs, according to Australian scientists. "Nitrates are hugely important for health and for fitness," Hobson says.

Rehydrate with a glass of milk after a workout to keep up muscle function

Sugary sports drinks and highly processed protein shakes are no match for milk when it comes to rehydrating after exercise. "Milk provides a mixture of water, carbs, protein and micronutrients that make it uniquely suitable as a post-exercise recovery drink," says the sports nutritionist Anita Bean, author of *The Complete Guide to Sports Nutrition* (Bloomsbury). "Research has proven that milk not only rehydrates very well but promotes key components of the recovery process, including replenishment of the body's glycogen, or carbohydrate stores, and muscle-protein repair and rebuilding." In a study at Newcastle University and Middlesex University, researchers found milk to be "a valuable recovery intervention" because it prevented a drop in muscle power and function after exercise.

Eat a bowl of blackcurrants to help work off thigh fat

Studies have shown that in blackcurrants high levels of anthocyanins (the pigments with antioxidant properties that give berries their purple colour) are responsible for reducing muscle soreness by up to 49 per cent after exercise. "Eating blackcurrants has been shown to buffer the release of proteins leaking from damaged muscle tissue," Hobson says. "This can help to relieve muscle soreness for up to 48 hours afterwards." With a high water content, blackcurrants and other berries also help to rehydrate the body after exercise. And they might even contribute to better fat burning. Reporting in the journal Nutrients last year, researchers from the University of Chichester showed that fat burning increased by an average 25 per cent and by as much as 66 per cent for participants who consumed blackcurrant extract alongside daily aerobic activity such as walking, with the consumption of berries proving particularly effective at reducing thigh fat in women.

A handful of almonds will help to boost strength

All nuts are a source of fibre, protein and antioxidants, but it is almonds that are a particularly effective workout aid. "We know that protein is essential for muscle repair and strength gains, but research also shows that it is good to drip-feed on protein throughout the day rather than consume it all in one go as a protein shake," Hobson says. "That makes nuts such as almonds the perfect snack for exercisers." In a 2022 study by Appalachian State University researchers found that the participants experienced gains in leg and lower-back strength, as well as better recovery rates, after 90-minute exercise sessions when they snacked on 57g of almonds — eating half in the morning and half later in the day — compared with a high-carb cereal bar.

CHRIS DOYLE/CHANNEL 4; KEN MCKAY/ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK



Phil Spencer and Luna

Meet my new 'work wife' — Luna

The TV presenter Phil Spencer tells Sarah Ewing about his new solo show and love of dogs

Phil Spencer has a food thief on the loose. "When I collected our chicken eggs after being away this weekend, I put them all in the kitchen before popping upstairs to unpack. When I came back Luna had eaten the eggs, shells and all," he says. "I think that was her payback for abandoning her."

Luna, the four-legged perpetrator in question, is a German short-haired pointer puppy the Spencers welcomed last year when she was two months old. It sounds like having a toddler in the house again. "Completely! Crying at night, weeing in the bed — just like a baby," he says, laughing. "She's very food-oriented. When I come through to my office in the morning I can sometimes see paw prints on my desk where she's been sniffing out [snacks]."

And when Spencer goes away, these days Luna is used to going with him. The pair have just spent two months doing the famous Coast to Coast Walk — 190 miles of footpaths, bridleways, minor roads and other rights of way crossing the breadth of England, from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire — for a More 4 series that starts next week.

It's a rare onscreen foray without Kirstie Allsopp, who has been Spencer's "work wife" since they met during a screen test for *Location, Location, Location* in 2000. "LLL" (as he calls it) popularised a TV genre and is currently on its 39th series, which means he'll be on our screens on consecutive evenings next week, with two very different sidekicks.

Working as a duo for more than two decades, "Kirstie and Phil" don't need surnames. Flying solo "definitely felt different", Spencer admits. "We tend to spend half the year working together, and then the other half she's doing her craft and Christmas shows and I've got my other projects. Filming on your own ups the ante because you can't rely on anyone else. But that's good for us. It's good for Kirstie and it's good for me."



Spencer and Kirstie Allsopp

It has also allowed him to combine his first loves: dogs and the countryside. When he was growing up on a farm in Littlebourne, a quiet village near Canterbury in Kent, the family had a string of springer spaniels, and the unfailingly cheerful Spencer gets emotional when talking about his faithful cocker spaniel Jessie, a regular feature on his Instagram feed, who died earlier this year.

"She was such an integral part of our family, growing up with the boys when they were little," he says. "She was two years old when she came to us from Wales and we adored her. She was a wonderful friend to me. I buried her in the field in February with a nice little headstone I can just see from my office window. She did well to reach 14."

Spencer met his Australian wife, Fiona, 28 years ago in London's Ministry of Sound nightclub when he was a student. They married in Melbourne in 2001, and had two sons — 19-year-old Jake, who's currently working in Australia, and 17-year-old Ben. Eight years ago the family relocated from Wandsworth, southwest London, to a six-bed barn conversion in Froyle, Hampshire.

In addition to the gym, cinema, swimming pool and "winter living room", it has ten acres that are home to two horses, a paddock of sheep, various beehives and, to Spencer's evident delight, a pair of barn owls in a nesting box. Quite the menagerie already, then, without adding another dog to the mix. "It was the boys who voted for a German short-haired pointer after researching them online," he says.

Establishing a new pack order was interesting. "Our other dogs tried to ignore her to start with and pretend it wasn't happening." Is Spencer top dog at home? "If I'm here then it's me doing the feeding and scooping poop," he says. "When I'm away someone else takes charge. My wife's plenty busy with the chickens and horses."

He describes his new series as a "walking unrehearsed interview". Spencer and Luna — "German short-haired pointers are very fast, very active and highly intelligent; she's the Usain Bolt of dogs" — are joined on each leg of their journey by other recognisable faces and their own hounds before settling in for the night in a country pub. Filming took place in early March, so the weather flitted from bright, sunny days to heavy snow, which proved challenging when filming with the blind Paralympic gold medal-winning athlete Libby Clegg and her guide dog, Hatti. "I don't ever want my property or outdoor programmes to be about me; it's about putting people at ease and getting to know them," Spencer says.

> "When I go into my office in the morning I can sometimes see paw prints on my desk

Now 53, he blushes at the suggestion he might be seen as a sex symbol (Amanda Holden once revealed he was a "secret crush"). "Really? Really? Maybe it's all that time outside that's kept me young. But I'm not sure my family would call me that!" He's feeling his age, he says, as he's had to retire from his beloved cricket — "I was a fast bowler and with my bad back I was just getting worse" — and is playing more golf. "I don't have a formal handicap quite yet, but it'd be around 22."

Spencer is just back from a weekend away in France on a classic car rally with his brother, driving their dad's Jensen 541, which he restored. If he ever gets sick of being tapped up for advice on the state of the property market wherever he goes, he doesn't show it. "It's understandable that people are being cautious — at the end of last year there was an awful lot of doom and gloom."

Yet with a calm demeanour typical of his presenting style he is quick to reassure: "Nobody wants to make a big decision during uncertainty, but the market is actually in reasonable shape given the numbers of people viewing property and houses coming on the market. Dare I say it, we might just have a normal market this year, and we haven't had that for a long time."

Whatever happens to house prices, our appetite for property porn appears undimmed. "I love my property shows and I'll carry on doing them as long as people carry on watching them, but I've been wanting to make a show that celebrated my love of the countryside for a decade," Spencer says, hoping for a run of dog-walking series, showcasing different locations around the UK with even more famous faces. Stormzy is up for it, for a start, with his two rottweilers.

"We just couldn't make filming dates work with his schedule this time round, but he's very keen," he adds. "We are so blessed in this country to have such fabulously diverse landscapes. I could carry on making this new programme until I'm 75."

***Great British Dog Walks* with Phil Spencer starts on More 4 on Thursday at 9pm**

Phil Spencer's perfect weekend

Lark or owl?
Lark
Town or country?
Country born and bred, stayed in London 20 years, then got out without a backwards glance
Green juice or full English?
Can I have both?
Signature dish?
Scrambled eggs from our chickens
Last thing you googled?
Where to get Hampshire-based Moon Roast coffee
Couldn't get through the weekend without…
A hearty breakfast and a dog walk

I'm too irritated with him for sex

Dr Suzi Godson
Sex counsel

Q Everything my partner does irritates me. If he is in the same room as me I want to escape. He thinks we'd be getting on better if we were having more sex. The irony is I'm extremely sexually frustrated, but I don't much feel like having sex with him. If we do manage to be intimate I find myself too annoyed to enjoy it. How do we break this vicious cycle?

A All couples go through phases where they get on each other's nerves. Sometimes when people feel constantly ratty and impatient with someone, it can mean that there are things going on beneath the surface. These may be things that a person is consciously or subconsciously not ready to deal with, but suppressing any kind of anxiety makes people irritable and inevitably, when that happens, they end up taking out their fears and frustrations on those they are closest to.

If being in the same room as him makes you want to run, I can understand why having sex might be the last thing you want to do, but not having sex because you are angry is a little bit chicken and egg, because having sex is sometimes the best way for two people who still basically like each other to alleviate conflict. If couples can get past the hostility between them, sex leads to rapid self-soothing that makes it much easier to soften your stance. After orgasm, the brain and the body are flooded with a cocktail of dopamine and oxytocin that variously serve to relax you and bond you to your partner.

If this really isn't an option for you, an alternative is to actively take a break from each other. Can you get away for a few days on your own, or even with a friend? Time apart will help you to regain some perspective — and it may prompt the heart to grow fonder. Taking some time to recalibrate is important for everyone, but it is especially useful when you are behaving in ways that you don't quite understand. Being away from him will help you to see whether your negative feelings are stemming from minor annoyances, or whether they actually reflect more serious problems in the relationship. Has your partner done anything to hurt or humiliate you? Has he jeopardised your safety, or put you in financial difficulty? Has he betrayed you? Has he done something to turn you off? Without a more detailed explanation of when these feelings started, or what happened to cause them, the best I can do is to try to help you identify the trigger.

If you generally feel joyful and liberated in his absence, the issue is probably to do with the relationship; but if you find that your black mood has crawled into your suitcase and come with you, there is something else going on. Women are more likely to suffer from depression than men, and it doesn't always involve feelings of deep sadness, hopelessness, or worthlessness. In some people, depression manifests as persistent anger and irritability which can be directed towards themselves and/or others.

Finally, if you don't think you are depressed and your partner genuinely hasn't done anything wrong, then you need to consider whether you are actually looking for a reason to exit the relationship. If this resonates, be a grown-up and be honest with him. You can't force yourself to love someone, but it would be wise to seek professional help at this point. A good couple counsellor can help to transform your emotional and sexual connection and if it doesn't work, at least you will have tried.

Send your queries to weekendsex@thetimes.co.uk

> Time apart will help you to regain some perspective — and it may prompt the heart to grow fonder



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‘We have no food rules at home: I let my kids eat what they want’

The author of the controversial new book Fat Talk tells Maria Lally that we should worry less about kids’ weight

STEPHANIE DIANI FOR THE TIMES



Virginia Sole-Smith with her daughters

It seems pertinent that on the morning of my interview with Virginia Sole-Smith, the author of *Fat Talk*, I find my nine-year-old tucking into a chocolate stash before she has even had breakfast. “The research is very clear on this,” Sole-Smith says, when I tell her. “When parents set lots of rules around when their kids can have treats, it makes kids anxious about their access to those treats and want to eat more of them, which creates a toxic power struggle.”

Her solution is a controversial one — to take a “more permissive approach” to what kids eat and when, because “they are very good at self-regulating around food”. The empty packets of Cadbury Mini Eggs in my daughter’s room tell a different story.

Sole-Smith’s book, which has been making waves in the US, explores what she calls the onslaught of “fatphobia”, diet culture and body shaming that she thinks our children face on a daily basis, from panicked headlines about childhood obesity to healthy eating initiatives in schools and at home — what she calls “the result of a nearly 40-year-old public health crusade against the rising tide of children’s weight”.

It’s certainly a modern-day parenting concern, right up there with school grades and screen time. And surely it should be, when you consider the bleak statistics. According to the latest government figures, gathered as part of the National Child Measurement Programme published by the NHS and covering 2021-22, 10.1 per cent of reception-age children (ages 4-5) were obese, while a further 12.1 per cent were overweight. By year 6 (ages 10-11) 23.4 per cent were obese and 14.3 per cent overweight.

Meanwhile a Sport England report published in December 2022 found that while UK children’s activity levels have just about recovered to pre-lockdown levels, only 47 per cent are active for the recommended 60 minutes a day, and one third for less than 30 minutes per day.

It’s a similar story in the US, where Sole-Smith lives in Hudson Valley, New York state, although Britain is starting to overtake America in the obesity stakes; a greater proportion of 11-year-olds in England (one in five) are overweight than in the US.

All of which is beside the point, according to Sole-Smith, who thinks the figures around childhood obesity are “overblown”. Which is not to say she doubts they’re true, but that she thinks they don’t merit panic — and she disagrees that being overweight should be seen as a problem to be solved or as a barrier to health and happiness.

“We’ve been told that raising a child at a so-called healthy bodyweight is an essential part of being a good parent,” she says. “Parents should focus on the health and happiness of their children, rather than their weight. Kids are bigger today — we all are — for a myriad of reasons; some good, some bad. But when they hear that their parents are anxious about their health or eating habits, which is just a coded way to refer to weight, what they hear is that their bodies are problems to be solved. [That] they’re doing something wrong.”

Sole-Smith says it is a similar problem in schools. “When a fat kid in class hears the teacher talking about preventing childhood obesity, what they hear is, ‘We’re trying to prevent you.’” And this, she says, doesn’t motivate anybody to be healthy.

A 2018 British Medical Journal study found no improvements in the diet or activity levels of more than 600 primary school pupils in the West Midlands who took part in a 12-month anti-obesity programme. “We see very clearly from studies that shame does not work to change body size or improve health, and we know that the more people go on diets, the more weight they end up gaining,” she says. “Diets don’t work, and neither does shame.”

The result of this approach, she argues, is the stigmatisation of fat children — and an increased prevalence of eating disorders, which are the deadliest of all mental health conditions. The rates of diagnosed eating disorders are, of course, far lower than obesity levels, but Sole-Smith says researchers now suspect that “subthreshold” disordered eating habits — which are difficult to track — are even more common among overweight children than thin ones, and can cause medical complications, such as dangerously low blood pressure and slow heart rates.

“Obesity may still be more common, but a high bodyweight is not, in and of itself, a disease,” she writes. “Kids with eating disorders are truly sick. We’ve spent four decades in a public health panic about rising childhood obesity, and we’ve not only failed to solve that ‘crisis’ — we’ve stoked another fire.”

Sole-Smith started her career as a women’s magazines journalist when the obsession with Jennifer Aniston’s Atkins diet and Gwyneth’s green juices was making its way into the zeitgeist in the early Noughties. “I was a health reporter, which meant I was writing a lot of ‘How to get your best body’ features,” she says. “I was very much helping to create diet culture.

“Fat was seen as something to be avoided at all costs, and our self-worth was increasingly being measured against our weight — and then, when children came along, their weight. Our worth as a parent was measured by our kid’s weight, with mothers bearing the brunt, which felt increasingly wrong to me. I’m somebody who pretty much has every privilege, yet I didn’t live in a thin body. I thought, ‘If I can do everything right and still not be thin, what about those who don’t have access to healthy food and exercise?’”

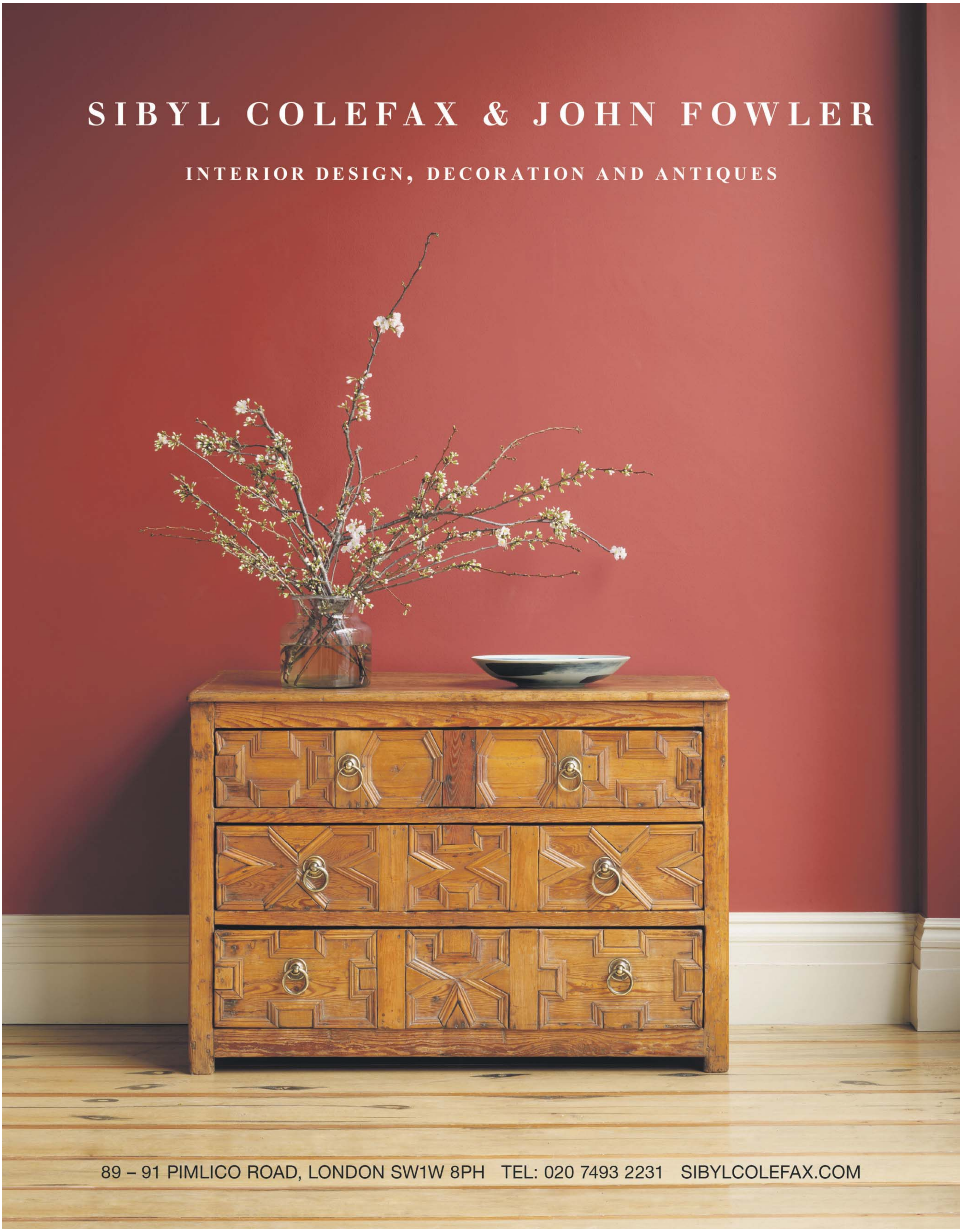
Sole-Smith’s first daughter, who is now nine, was born with a heart condition that led to several operations and she was dependent on a feeding tube for the first two years of her life. The experience inspired her first book, *The Eating Instinct*. “My daughter’s experience was a turning point for me as a person and a mother, as I explored how all the messages we get around food — which ones are ‘good’, which ones are ‘bad’ — disconnects us from being able to trust our bodies. It also made me realise there’s one set of rules for thin kids and one for fat kids. But if we want to raise kids to love their bodies no matter what, we can’t get to decide that only one type of body is allowed to do that.”

> “Our worth as a parent is measured by our kids’ weight, with mothers bearing the brunt

So what should today’s parents do? “If you’re concerned about your child’s health, taking weight out of every conversation you have will only benefit them,” Sole-Smith says, adding that kids should be given space to follow their own hunger cues. “There is so much pressure around the family dinner set-up — for it to be home-cooked and full of vegetables — but my goal is for my children to feel in charge of their bodies at the table, which will help them with body autonomy later on. Nothing gets pushed on them. We have salad on the table, but they don’t like it and that’s fine. It takes kids a long time to eat the way parents think they should eat, so take the pressure off. I want their relationship with food to be joyful.”

Today’s parents should also take note of their own body biases, Sole-Smith says. “Almost everybody I interviewed for this book who struggled with eating, diet or body image almost always brought up something their mother said in judgment of their bodies. I happen to be raising thin kids, which makes it even more important to talk to them about anti-fat bias so they don’t perpetuate it. If their bodies change I don’t want them to feel like a failure.” And if you are raising a bigger child? “Let them know your house is a safe space where their bodies won’t get demonised.”

***Fat Talk: Coming of Age in Diet Culture* by Virginia Sole-Smith (Bonnier £16.99). Buy from timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount for Times+ members**


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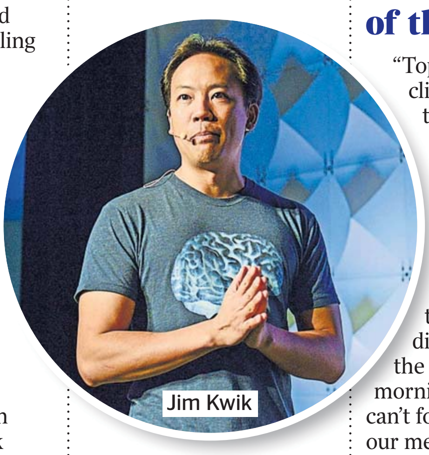
The rise of 'digital dementia': how to protect yourself

The 'brain coach' to the super-rich, Jim Kwik, tells Anna Maxted his rules for staying sharp

Are forgetfulness and lapses in focus something everyone has to put up with as they get older? Or can we still stay sharp and retain laser-like concentration, even in the face of modern distractions such as our phones? Yes we can, says the US "brain coach" Jim Kwik, who teaches skills such as how to boost memory power, improve attention and learn faster, and has shared his expertise with a long list of big hitters, including Bill Clinton, Will Smith, Richard Branson, Oprah Winfrey and Elon Musk.

"High-achievers are lifelong learners," Kwik says. "They're constantly curious, because the more you know, the more you realise that you don't know. They ask questions other people don't ask. They're not waiting for things to happen to them."

Kwik, 50, who has advised brands such as SpaceX, Virgin, Nike and Harvard University, is the author of a bestselling book and hosts a popular podcast, *Kwik Brain*. He became a brain-performance consultant after learning to dramatically enhance his own mental performance after a head injury when he was a child. This is the advice he gives to his A-list clients.


Jim Kwik

Stop saying, 'I've got a terrible memory'

It's common to believe that we are getting less sharp in midlife, but the brain's neuroplasticity means we can keep learning at any life stage, Kwik says. "We know that when it comes to our brain performance — memory, for example — about one third is predetermined by genetics and biology, and two thirds is under our influence.

"Your brain is this incredible supercomputer and self-talk is the program it will run. So, if you tell yourself, 'I'm not good at remembering names', you probably won't remember the name of the next person you meet, or [if you say], 'I can't remember anything now that I am older', then it will be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Kill those automatic negative thoughts." Instead, he advises that you create a new phrase, such as, "I learn things quickly and easily." And adds: "Keep your thoughts empowering and useful."

Pay attention in the first six seconds of hearing something

Somebody tells you something — a pin number, a passcode, a name — and you have six seconds to grasp it or it's lost in the ether, he teaches his clients. "So you have to overcome what I call the 'six-second syndrome'," Kwik says. For example, when they're told a name most people aren't paying attention, they're thinking about how they'll respond. Being aware you have just six seconds to remember something helps you to focus on it.

To remember names he gets his clients to deploy a list of techniques. These include saying someone's name when you meet them; trying to use the name three or four times during the conversation; and, finally, visualising the person's name. "If the person's name is David, I think of David and Goliath, and I imagine a slingshot, and hitting him in the nose with it," Kwik says. "Or I think of a famous person that shares their name." And, importantly, he tells clients: "Always say goodbye using that person's name." Do this, he says, and people will remember you too. "It's a stand-out skill."

Make the first hour of the day phone-free

"Top of my not-to-do list for my clients is touching your phone for the first hour of the day," Kwik says. "There's so much context-switching, and it can be exhausting going through a thousand different things in two minutes." Each like, share and cat video prompts a release of dopamine, which motivates us to keep scrolling. It puts us in a distracted state, he says. "That's the first thing you're flexing in the morning, and you wonder why you can't focus at work or school." It affects our mental state too, often for the worse. "We know that one social-media message, email or text message can hijack your mood and mind for hours."

Don't let smartphones do your remembering for you

Kwik describes "the four horsemen of the mental apocalypse" galloping in when we allow tech to control us. The first horseman is Digital Deluge — the overload of information. Digital Deduction, he says, is when "we don't have to think or use logic because information is being fed to us". Digital Distraction is the constant focus-destroying "rings, dings, notifications, app notifications". Digital Dementia, a term coined by a German neuroscientist, describes a breakdown of cognitive abilities, thanks to the other three.

"We're using our smart devices as external memory, and we don't have to remember certain things, so those parts of our brains aren't being used," he says. To keep our brains sharp, it's important to "flex your memory muscles when you can. Try to remember a phone number, a grocery list, a name." Learn it, then review it after an hour, a day, a week. If you want to recall a passcode or phone number, try chunking. "Chunking is a memory technique where you break down information into smaller manageable parts. So if you have a password — let's say, 48636792 — you might break it down into three parts." It makes it easier to remember.

When you wake up, decide what you want from your day

Try to keep your eyes closed for a few moments when you wake up, he says, and think about how you would like to feel at the end of your day. "I'll fast-forward and imagine myself coming back to bed, and my wife asking me how my day was." He imagines telling her it was terrific, then he imagines why. "I think of three things personally and three things professionally that happened that I put my focus on, that made it a win. And I work backwards from there." Choosing where to put our attention and energy first thing helps us to prioritise our time, look after our mind and defend it from getting overwhelmed as the day progresses.

Improve your focus — imagine your attention as a spotlight

As we age, our ability to filter out distractions worsens, Kwik says, so he advises his clients to use the practice of imagining your attention as a spotlight — where you shine it is your focus. "The art of memory is the art of attention. Nobody does it perfectly. The goal is to do it better than we did before." If we focus our attention, we'll get more information out of an encounter and remember it for longer.

Boost your episodic memory — spend five minutes before bed reviewing your day

We can improve our episodic memory — our ability to recall specific episodes of our life — by taking four or five minutes to review our day before bed, Kwik says. "People forget what they had for breakfast, their conversations, meetings." Practise recalling what you did on waking, who you interacted with, and what you ate. No matter that this seems like trivia. "We'll always filter for what's valuable," he says, and adds: "The brain is a muscle and it gets stronger with use." But it also needs to rest. Kwik journals before bed, sets his schedule for the next day and meditates. "Your brain needs to reach, recover and rest. I don't want my mind to be full, and ruminating, when I want to relax and go to sleep."

Jim Kwik will be speaking at the Health Optimisation Summit in London on June 17 and 18 (summit.healthoptimisation.com)

Ciao gluten! The Italian chef who breaks the rules

Chef Antonio Alderuccio tells Giulia Crouch how his plant-based, gluten-free pizza is taking on the world


Antonio Alderuccio

Known for being sticklers for tradition and authenticity, it is at your peril that you mess with an Italian recipe.

So when I heard of the Sicilian-born chef Antonio Alderuccio, who's disrupting the status quo of his homeland with his gluten-free and vegan Italian restaurant in north London, I was curious. Plant Club in Newington Green is the only establishment of its kind in the country and it's attracting attention.

Last year Alderuccio, 34, who moved to the UK eight years ago, was crowned Britain's pasta chef of the year from the Federation of Italian Chefs with a gluten-free and plant-based *paccheri* dish entered into the "regular" category. He suspected, given the circumstances, that his chances of winning the prestigious title were low. "It's considered a second-class food," he says. "There's a lot of snobbery towards gluten-free and vegan." So when he won — the first time in the history of the competition that a dish of this kind has — he cried. "It felt like a huge moment for Italian food," he says.

Now he plans to take on Naples — the birthplace of the margherita and home of mozzarella — with his gluten-free, no-cheese offering at the pizza world championships in June. "It's the Olympics of pizza-making," says Alderuccio. "Napoli will be hard to convince."

> "One guy started crying in the restaurant. He was so happy to have a beer and pizza

Alderuccio didn't start out wanting to cook vegan or gluten-free food. It was when he moved to London when he was 26 and met a woman who was coeliac and diabetic that the idea came about. "She was a foodie and dreamt of eating in nice restaurants but there was nowhere for her. No one else wanted to put the effort in, so I took on the challenge. It felt like a necessity. I felt like I was providing a service to people who didn't have it before."

His path wasn't straightforward. Italian cuisine, famous the world over for pizza and pasta, relies heavily on gluten, and recreating its characteristic stretchy quality wasn't easy. It was during the pandemic that he began experimenting with pizza. He bought a pizza oven from a restaurant that was closing down, shut himself in the kitchen and tried for months to develop a dough. One day he flung what he thought was a mistake in the oven and voilà, it worked. "It was a complete accident," he says.

He began selling gluten-free pizzas on Deliveroo and people loved them. "Sales rocketed. We had 300 per cent growth in three months. That's when I knew I was on to something."

Pizzerias started contacting him asking if they could buy the base, but he turned them down. Right now it's not for sale, and his exact recipe is a secret. All he'll reveal is it's a blend of starch and good rice flour.

I'm sceptical — how could gluten-free pizza ever compare with the stretchy, chewy, soft, traditional pizza I love so much? He says many people feel this way.

Then he presents me with one of his signature dishes, the "indulgent garlic bread" with raw macerated datterini tom-atoes from Sicily, superstraccia (a vegan version of stracciatella cheese) and oregano. Taking a bite, it was crisp, chewy and yielding in parts; just the kind of pizza you really want to get your teeth into and not stop until it's all gone. I was truly surprised.

"One guy started crying in the restaurant," he remembers. "He was crying because he'd never been able to eat in an Italian restaurant before. He was so happy to have a beer and pizza." .

As well as praise from customers, Alderuccio now also has recognition from his fellow chefs.Theo Randall, an acclaimed chef of Italian food and one of the judges of the national pasta competition last year, said Alderuccio's gluten-free dish was "absolutely mind-blowing". "I wasn't even thinking about the fact it was gluten-free."

Now it's just Naples that he needs to convince.

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JOHN GODWIN FOR THE TIMES



Vegan, gluten-free calzone



Gluten-free paccheri

Antonio's top tips for vegan Italian cooking

Pay it more attention
Gluten-free pasta can break more easily, so keep a closer eye on it and continually taste to see when it's perfectly cooked. Alderuccio says the best brands are Bontasana, available at mightyplants.com, and Maidea, which you can buy from Ocado.



Finish it in the sauce
Like normal pasta, it tastes better if you finish cooking it in the sauce. This way the flavour will infuse into and coat the pasta nicely.

There's an alternative for everything
Alderuccio says the world of vegan "dairy" is massive. There's vegan burrata, parmesan, mozzarella and even cream. Swap them in when you crave creaminess. He likes the brand Julienne Bruno.



Olives, capers and parsley are your friends
For a simple vegan dish, embellish a tomato sauce with salty olives and capers and stir in parsley before mixing it through pasta.

Wash it all down with a gluten-free beer. What's better than pasta and beer?
His favourite is Birra Baladin's Nazionale Gluten Free.



My perfect pasta sauce recipe: Asparagus and courgette sauce with tarragon

Ingredients
- 1 bunch of asparagus, ends chopped off
- 1 courgette, ends chopped off and core removed
- ½ shallot, finely chopped
- Dash of orange wine
- 35g tarragon leaves, picked and chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Seed oil for frying

Method
1 Begin by starting a stock with the chopped asparagus ends and courgette ends.
2 Finely chop the asparagus and remove the core of the courgette, then chop it into pieces similar in size to the asparagus.
3 In a pan, fry the finely chopped shallot in seed oil. Add the chopped vegetables and a dash of orange wine, and stir fry.
4 Once the stock is ready, add enough to cover all the vegetables (approximately 250ml) and let it cook for a maximum of 5 min.
5 Transfer the mixture to a blender, leaving half of the stock out. If necessary, add the remaining stock slowly while blending to reach the desired texture.
6 Add the chopped tarragon to the blender and blend until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
7 Stir the sauce through the pasta of your choice.



Critic's choice: the best bottles at Aldi and Lidl

Jane MacQuitty

Still an Aldi and Lidl refusenik? There cannot be many of you left, given that the "big four" are no longer the leaders of the pack now that Aldi has leapfrogged Morrisons. It's clear from my visits to fill the wine rack that, thank the Lord, there have been steady improvements at both German discounters. The long queues and lack of signage continue to grate, but they are better than they were at restocking sold-out wines and getting the right bottle onto the right shelf at the right time.

Unsurprisingly, it's Aldi and Lidl's newer, brighter, wider-aisle stores that pull this off. It's no mystery either why prices at both are so low: with far fewer lines than other supermarkets, Aldi and Lidl's distribution and warehousing costs are much reduced, and bulk-buying wines from one producer also makes for rock bottom prices.

Aldi has the better wines and best range by far and, unlike Lidl, offers click-and-collect online orders. I still can't stand Aldi's own-label champagnes; just because a wine is cheap, it doesn't mean it's good value. Yet there's no denying the merits of its organic prosecco, fizzy English pink and revered Jura crémant (back in store in September). Elsewhere, seek out the tasty Castellore Italians and Freeman's Bay Kiwi sauvignons, plus some lovely Portuguese wines. Exciting Greeks and decent Australians — see star buys — plus flavourful French varietals also make for increasingly happy shoppers. For under £4, nab the sweetly fruited Grapevine Shiraz, £3.89, a spicy, smoky, vanilla-scented Spanish charmer, while the 2021 Specially Selected California Pinot Noir, £7.99, is a lively, leafy, truffle-scented steal.

Over at Lidl, quality continues to be hit and miss, but the new world wines have much improved with some impressive Fairtrade South Africans and a good new Deluxe range of Kiwis. And, at last, the six annual wine tours feature finer £11.99-plus bottles, including the Recioto star buy. Riesling has long been a Lidl strength, so try the summer wine tour's elegant, floral 2021 RYO Riesling Rheingau Trocken, £7.49. And at a recent tasting, Lidl's light, gentle, red apple-charged Crémant de Loire sparkler, £8.99, got my thumbs-up; it's at least £4 more elsewhere. Refuseniks, take note.

Amorany Cava Reserve Brut, Spain, ***11.5 per cent, Lidl, £8.99***



Organic Prosecco Rosé, Italy, ***11.5 per cent, Aldi, £8.79***





2021 Deluxe Carménère Gran Reserva, Chile
14 per cent, Lidl, £7.99
Classic carménère with all the bold, herbaceous, dusky raspberry fruit you would expect; it's good barbecue fodder.



2020 Corte Allodola Recioto di Soave, Italy
13 per cent, Lidl, £11.99 (35cl) Lidl's summer surprise: a fresh, smoky, dried apricot star, produced from raisined garganega grapes.



2021 Chapter & Verse Australian Sauvignon-Semillon ***12 per cent, Aldi, £4.99***
Enlivened with a splash of verdelho and colombard, this zingy, citrus, easy-swigger gets my vote.



2022 Filos Estate Greek Chardonnay ***13 per cent, Aldi, £8.99***
Aldi's surprisingly good run of Greeks includes this rich, buttery, stone-fruited chardonnay from the northwest.

This week's star buys



2022 Klein Street Sauvignon Blanc, South Africa ***12 per cent, Morrisons, £6***
Bright, bouncy, food-friendly Western Cape sauvignon, with masses of grassy charm and a punchy finish.



2020 Chiroubles Maison Dominique Piron, France
13.5 per cent, thewinesociety.com, £13.50
Velvety, floral, superior single village beaujolais, with lashings of firm red berry and cherry fruit.



2015 Château Lalande Borie, St Julien, Bordeaux, France
13.5 per cent, justerinis.com, £29.47
Bold, cedary, classic claret with surprisingly succulent merlot-cabernet sauvignon fruit.



Laurent-Perrier La Cuvée Brut Champagne, France ***12 per cent, Sainsbury's, £39 down from £45***
Crisp, racy, refreshing, lemon twist of a champagne is summer in a glass — nab it now.

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			P&P	£6.99
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SPK, JOHN HOPKINS, FRED VAN WIJK/ALAMY





A good walk Severn/Mercian Way, Bridgnorth to Jackfield, Shropshire

How hard is it?

8½ miles; easy; riverside and railway path

Bridgnorth hangs over the River Severn, crowned by a pinnacled church tower, its buildings piled one above another like an Italian hill town. But there the resemblance ends. These three-storey red-brick river warehouses, gable-end advertisements for ancient seed merchants and beamy pubs, belong to England alone.

The old Shropshire river port is chock-full of character. It was hard to tear ourselves away from the tangled hilly streets, but as the clock chimed midday we set out along the Severn Way footpath that clings closely to the west bank of the river.

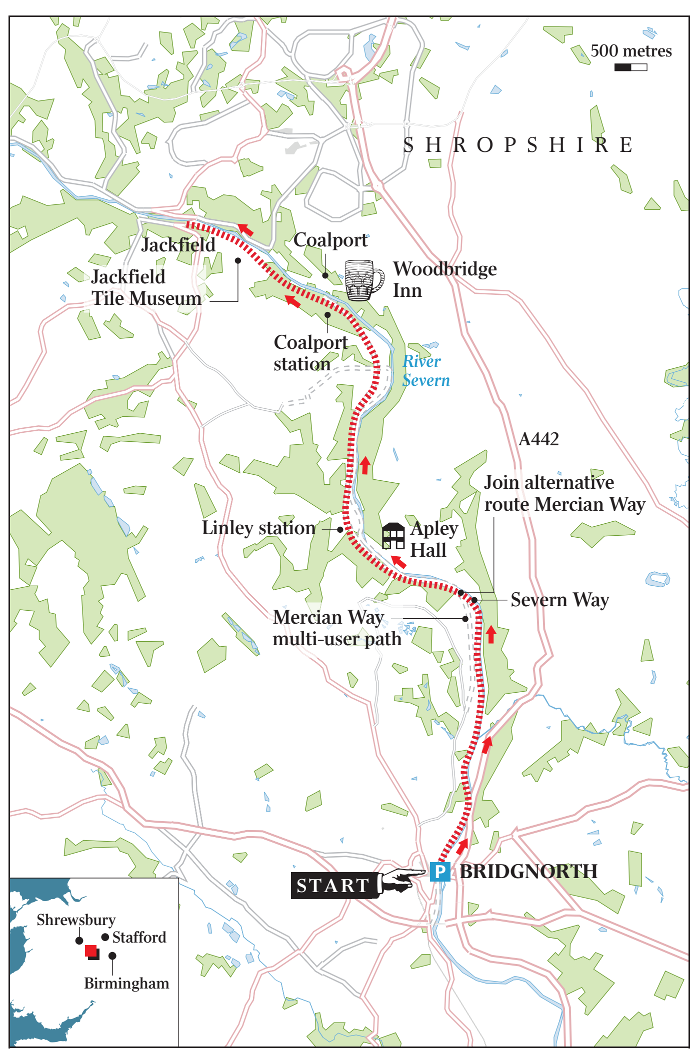
There was a strength and power to the Severn, the water gleaming with a bronzy sheen and exuding that unmistakable riverine smell of muddy vegetation. Tender new green leaves poked out on weeping willows, and bushes of comfrey along the bank were hung with white and pink flower bells.

A man in a yellow singlet sculled a long racing shell upriver, easily overtaking us with powerful strokes against the current. We threaded a golf course margin past the ochre and grey sandstone cliff of High Rock, then followed the path at the edge of clover leys and ploughed fields of dark red earth scattered with last year's wrinkled remnants of beets and potatoes.

A goldfinch skimmed away with a swooping flight. A dozen swallows perched chirping in a hawthorn, and a gang of blue tits tinkled and bounced from branch to branch of a sycamore half in and half out of the river. Floods had pulled some trees down to water level; others tottered precariously, barely clinging to the bank with roots exposed.

We crossed a stile and turned along the line of the old Severn Valley Railway, now the Mercian Way multi-user path. On a rise of ground above the far bank, the enormous gothic revival façade of Apley Hall looked out over the river. Thomas Whitmore, the owner of the Apley Estate, bitterly opposed the building of the railway across his land in the 1850s. He was appeased with a payoff of £14,000 — about £2.5 million today — and the building of a special station at Linley (now a private house) where he could hail trains for a personal pick-up.

> The water gleamed with a bronzy sheen, exuding that unmistakable riverine smell



Coalport Bridge crosses the Severn. See comfrey and blue tits on the walk

We passed Linley station's flowery platform and walked on through mossy sandstone cuttings lined with cowslips and wild garlic, the Severn never more than a field away, until railway and river reconnected for the last mile to Jackfield.

Start Riverside car park, Bridgnorth WV16 4BH (OS ref SO 719931). Other all-day car parks available in Bridgnorth.
Getting there Bus 8 (Telford-Bridgnorth). Road: Bridgnorth is on A442 from Telford (M54 jct 4).
Walk (OS Explorer 218, 242) Follow road upstream beside river, then Severn Way to Jackfield. **Alternative** after 3 miles, where Severn Way and old railway run close together (721974), left over stile onto Mercian Way multi-user path and turn right. In 1¼ miles, just past Linley station (705983), pass notice forbidding traffic and cycles, and continue. In another 2¾ miles at Coalport station (702019), sharp right along road; opposite Woodbridge Inn, left along Severn Valley Way to Jackfield. Return by Bus 8, Telford-Bridgnorth.
Lunch Woodbridge Inn, Coalport TF8 7JF (01952 882054; brunningandprice.co.uk)
Accommodation Falcon Hotel, St John's Street, Bridgnorth WV15 6AG (01746 763134; falconhotelbridgnorth.co.uk)
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Mr Molloy (centre) with the team

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Testimonial

"I've always been active, working as a police officer before re-training as a personal trainer. When I sustained my rugby injury resulting in the loss of use of my legs I had to work hard to readjust. With two children under the age of ten it became a must for me to live independently at home.

With the help of the RFU Injured Players Foundation, I was able to install a Stiltz Trio+ Wheelchair Homelift into my house. I can't begin to explain how significant this was for me. I could go upstairs when I wanted instead of relying on my partner to give me a piggy back. I could also read the kids their bedtime stories at their bedsides, just like any able-bodied Mum does.

With Stiltz I never felt sold to, nobody was pushy they just gave us all the information we needed to be able to make our own buying decision".



Dani Watts, Berkshire

Stiltz are very proud of the teams who work in customers' homes. We know our customers are concerned we might make a mess. But comments such as 'the installers left our home pristine', 'the building and installation teams were a joy to have in our home' and 'I can't praise the lads that come to do the work in our home enough', tells us our customers are overwhelmingly delighted with the work we do. Buy from a UK company who manufacture and install their own products using their own people, safe in the knowledge that if you need us, we are at the end of the phone in one of our three UK locations.

Homelifts for All

People buy homelifts for many different reasons. Some are wheelchair users who need immediate help with moving around the home and are looking for one of our larger lift models. Others are planning for the future and making their home secure for their golden years and are keen to install one of our stylish, compact models.

FREE, No-obligation Surveys

When you're ready, our UK-based team will be there to take your call. We can answer any questions you have and arrange for one of our Sales Advisors to visit at a convenient time. They will be able to help you decide which product will work for you and your home and provide specific answers relating to your property and lifestyle.

Your Home Lift questions answered

Q&A

Why should I consider a homelift rather than a stairlift?

A homelift is the ultimate future-proofing solution. A stairlift might seem like a good idea but what if a condition progresses to the point the user would find it impossible to get on and off a stairlift? With a homelift you can just step or wheel yourself in, and at the push of a button you're upstairs. No precarious perching on a seat at the top of the stairs!

How does a Stiltz differ from other homelifts?

A Stiltz Homelift has been developed specifically for use in the home – this isn't a commercial lift which has been retrospectively adapted into a homelift. Stiltz lifts also have some rather unique solutions. For instance, we have the ThruCar, perfect for wheelchair users as you can enter and exit the lift from opposite sides so there's no need to reverse into, or out of, the lift car.

Importantly, Stiltz manufacture, sell and install our own product. We do not rebadge or resell other companies' lifts.

Are you a UK-based company?

Yes. Stiltz Homelifts was founded in the UK. Our three main offices are in Berkshire, West Yorkshire, and the West Midlands. All the staff you'll talk to are based in the UK and research and development is carried out in our West Midlands headquarters. The homelifts are manufactured in our own factory in the Far East which is staffed 100% by Stiltz employees.

How easy is it to install the lift?

Very easy. We employ and train our own building and installation teams – Stiltz rarely use subcontractors. We carefully survey your property. Firstly, our Sales Advisor will visit and determine suitability, taking you through the lift ranges, pricing, and location options. Once you're happy to proceed, our Technical Surveyor will visit and thoroughly check your home to establish what needs to be done to ensure a successful installation. The notes they prepare will be used by our Operations Team to create a report for the builders and installers to work from. Everything is taken care of, even the lift which is modular and plugs into a dedicated standard domestic socket which we will install for you.

Now you CAN stay in the home you love

When children have flown the nest we can find ourselves wondering what the future might hold. Maybe we'd be better off in a smaller property? But what about all the memories and treasured belongings that surround us?

Downsizing is expensive and risky, moving home is stressful. If you love your home and you're surrounded by friends, family and an established support network, you might question whether moving is absolutely necessary. There's less pressure these days to downsize with a shift in opinion towards adapting the family home as we grow older. We call it 'aging in place'.

Today's mobility solutions are far more integrated than simply installing a functional handrail. Innovative and exciting products are emerging which are designed to discreetly adapt your home. This means it's possible to continue living in the family home without the worry of downsizing or moving house.

Stiltz Homelifts are at the forefront of the drive for aesthetics with their neat, discreet, quiet and life-changing domestic lifts. There really is no need for a stairlift that not only looks unattractive but provides a trip risk for others in the home who might use the stairs.

Design and styling is where a Stiltz Homelift really earns its stripes. Unlike any other homelift on the market the product's elegant look and feel has been designed to be admired but also to blend effortlessly into the background. Curved lines and a warm, soft, grey aluminium finish with a matching glazed lift car allows natural light to flood through the home. Subtle lighting will bring your lift to life whenever you step into it.

Queens award winners

In late April 2020 during the first lockdown, Stiltz Homelifts learned they had been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade. For a young company who have become established and successful in the traditional world of accessibility products which isn't typically known for being design and innovation led, this was a big deal.

Stiltz Homelifts have led the field in creating products that help users live full and independent lives at home. And it is this which sets them apart. Other homelifts are adaptations of commercial products but a Stiltz Homelift is designed – from the ground up if you like – to be used specifically in the home. It is this passion for creating well-designed products that are as good to look at as they are to use which has so caught the public's imagination.

For a FREE brochure or no obligation survey
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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

18V CORDLESS POWER WASHER WITH 4.0AH BATTERY STARTER KIT

Powerful cleaning without mains power

Ryobi's Cordless Power Washer blasts away dirt and grime with ease for a spotless finish every time!

As the weather starts to warm up and we start spending more time outdoors, we're reminded of all those cleaning tasks that need to be done. But don't let the thought of tedious outdoor cleaning put a dampener on your spring plans — the Ryobi ONE+ 18v Cordless Power Washer is here to make outdoor cleaning quick and easy, without the hassle of traditional power washers.

You want those cleaning tasks done quickly, yet dragging out a bulky, cumbersome power washer that requires an electrical outlet just isn't practical. That's where Ryobi's 18V Cordless Power Washer comes in — the easy solution to all your outdoor cleaning woes.

Enjoy the convenience of cordless cleaning

This handy tool blasts away dirt and grime effortlessly. And as it's cordless, you won't have to worry about trip hazards or finding a power source. You'll have the freedom to clean wherever you need to, without being restricted by a cord.

And don't let its compact size fool you – Ryobi's 18V Cordless Power Washer makes light work of cleaning cars, patios, decks, and more. Plus, with the 3-in-1 nozzle, you'll be able to switch between jet, fine or wide spray to suit the task at hand, whether that's removing stubborn dirt or general rinsing.

Trustpilot 4.3/5

A great choice for the eco-friendly user, too

This cordless washer is a great choice for the eco-conscious buyer, too. The 6-metre syphoning hose lets you draw water from a bucket, butt or other water source – perfect for cleaning areas that aren't near a mains supply. With no tap left running, you only use the water your trigger finger demands! This ensures much more efficient water use – and it's a great way to feed your garden in the event of a summer hosepipe ban. Of course, it quickly and easily connects to your garden hose for instant mains supply should you wish.

Because it runs on a battery, there are no harmful emissions, making it a great choice for the environmentally conscious.

And let's not forget about the huge saving of £110 off the recommended price. You get complete cordless cleaning convenience for a fraction of the usual price.

So, what are you waiting for? Say goodbye to the hassle of traditional power washers and hello to the convenience of the Ryobi 18V Cordless Power Washer. With its impressive performance, cordless convenience, and eco-friendly design, it's the perfect tool for all your outdoor cleaning needs.

Save £110 now!

Order today for just £149.99 and receive the 6-metre syphoning hose, a 3 year warranty and fast, free GB mainland delivery.



"This power washer has really exceeded my expectations. Easy to move around with no cords holding you back and works wonders cleaning the car, kids' bikes and patio furniture. My new favourite tool."

Barry, Verified Purchaser



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Using the latest digital technology you can enhance your hearing and live life to the full with the new ***MICRO Infini-Ear***.

DISCREET DESIGN

This amazing new super small device fits in your ear – in fact it's so discreet you can hardly notice it. Simply slip it in your ear and adjust the volume to suit your hearing needs and away you go! The design is so compact and comfortable you'll soon forget you're wearing it.



ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

The advanced microelectronic amplification circuitry will give you enhanced hearing without any whistles or interference that you find with cheaper imitations. And because we are selling direct to customers we are able to offer the ***MICRO Infini-Ear*** at an affordable price. Other companies like you to believe that improved hearing costs a fortune, but not with ***MICRO Infini-Ear***.

NO MORE BATTERIES!

And what's more you'll never have to worry about the cost or having to replace batteries. The ***MICRO Infini-Ear*** is fully rechargeable! All you need to do is pop it into the charger and turn it on. You can charge it while you sleep. It's so much more convenient than having to fiddle about with batteries. As it doesn't need to carry batteries it's smaller than other devices. Ditch your old-fashioned fiddly device and try the new ***MICRO Infini-Ear***.

Recharge while you sleep



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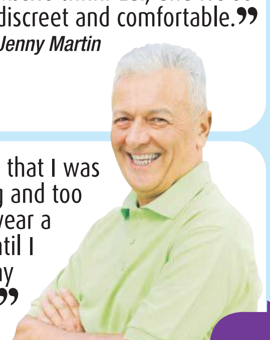


"My hearing is now crystal clear thanks to MICRO Infini-Ear, and it's so discreet and comfortable."
Jenny Martin



"The MICRO Infini's are so small you hardly notice them, – I'm just so glad I tried them. I would highly recommend them to anyone with hearing problems."
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BREAKING NEWS

HOW AN AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP CAN WORK FOR YOU

Introducing the Fischer Hybrid Solution - Reduce Energy Use and Stay Warm

Despite the offer of a £5000 grant towards the cost of installation, take up of the Government's Boiler Replacement Scheme has got off to a slow start.

Under The Boiler Upgrade Scheme, households can apply for vouchers to help them switch to a heat pump. The government aims to give out 30,000 vouchers annually but only managed 9,888 between the scheme's launch in May and the end of last year. So far, annual air source heat pump installation is under 40,000. As it stands, the government's target to install 600,000 a year by 2028 seems a long way off.

Criticism of heat pumps and in particular their perceived lack of suitability for many UK homes may account for the poor uptake. Users who have installed heat pumps have also reported that their new system struggles to reach a warm and comfortable temperature, leaving them out of pocket, and… out in the cold.

But what if you were told you could move towards Net Zero without compromising on comfort and warmth?

Pioneers of Zero Emission Heating

Fischer has been manufacturing electric heating systems for over 75 years and in that time has gained vast experience and a wealth of knowledge in how best to utilise sustainable heating systems.

Fischer has installed over 250,000 electric HeatCore radiators in UK homes along with electric boilers and water heating and they understand that if we are to reach net zero targets, the way we heat our homes is not a 'One Size Fits All' solution.

CEO Keith Bastian says: ***"To reach net zero targets, we need to move to zero-emission heating, but due to the many differences in UK homes, customers need the best advice on which solution works best for them. At Fischer, we have multiple options for customers to choose from and we are helping customers transition to net zero in a manner that matches their needs."***



A Hybrid Heat Pump.

The team at Fischer has found a solution which offers customers the best of both worlds. Homeowners can now enjoy the benefits that a heat pump brings - reducing their homes carbon emissions and energy use, while enjoying the same levels of comfort and warmth they experience with their existing heating system.



The Fischer Air Source Compact

Fischer has just launched the Fischer Compact to their zero emission product range which also includes electric boilers, patented electric water heating and 100% efficient electric HeatCore radiators.

To combat the reduced temperatures produced by heat pumps, Fischer are providing customers with their 'Warm Home Package' that includes an Air Source Heat Pump, a dual hot water system with buffer tank and Fischer 40mm HeatCore radiators.
Fischer's radiators are supplied to combat the lower levels of heat provided by a heat pump. Working in conjunction with the heat pump, Fischer radiators bolster the room temperature quickly, heating your home effectively and efficiently resulting in you getting the warmth you need, whenever you need it.

What do the Tests Reveal?

The Hybrid Heat Pump Concept has been borne out of tests Fischer has conducted in a home setting. The test revealed that whilst Air Source Heat Pumps are highly efficient, enjoying performance levels of around 300%, they struggle to heat homes to a comfortable temperature of 21° C.

Thanks to Fischer's wide range of heating options, homeowners across the UK can move towards Net Zero and still enjoy the comfort levels they would expect.

Why Choose Fischer?

Fischer's Air Source Compact features industry leading 80mm injected Polyurethane Insulation to reduce heat losses and uses a R-32 refrigerant for improved energy efficiency and cost reductions. Compatible with Solar PV - The Fischer Hybrid Heat Pump Solution will play a significant part in the transition to net zero.



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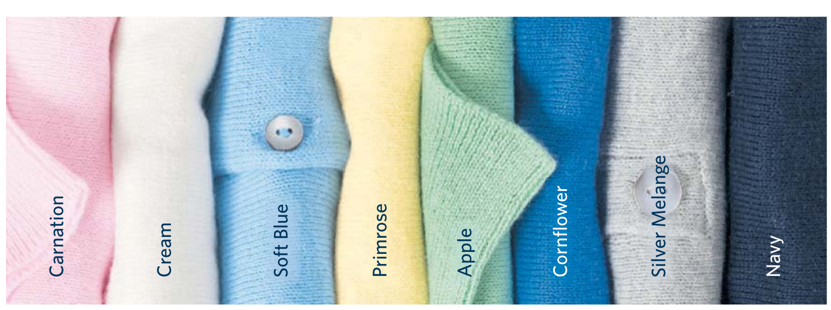
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Naples Pro Lounger WAS ~~£179.95~~ NOW £99.95

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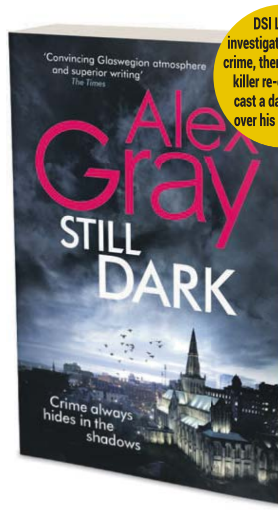
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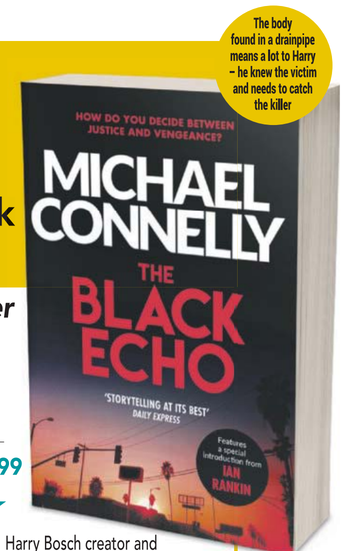
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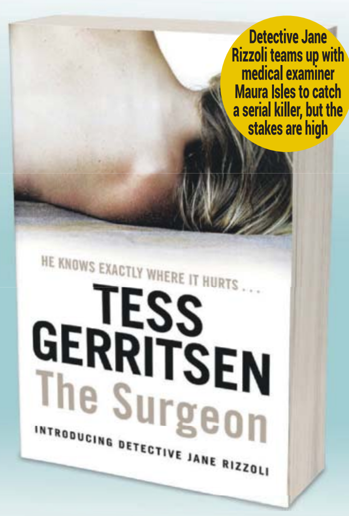
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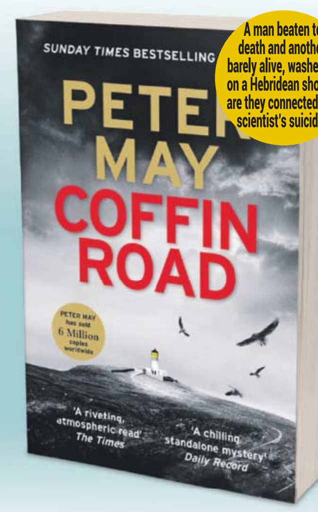
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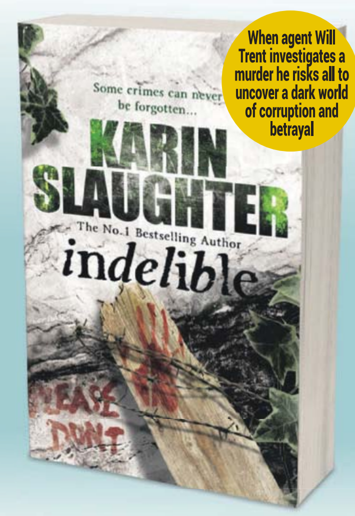
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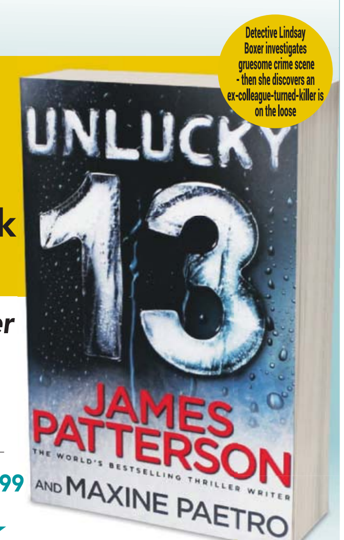
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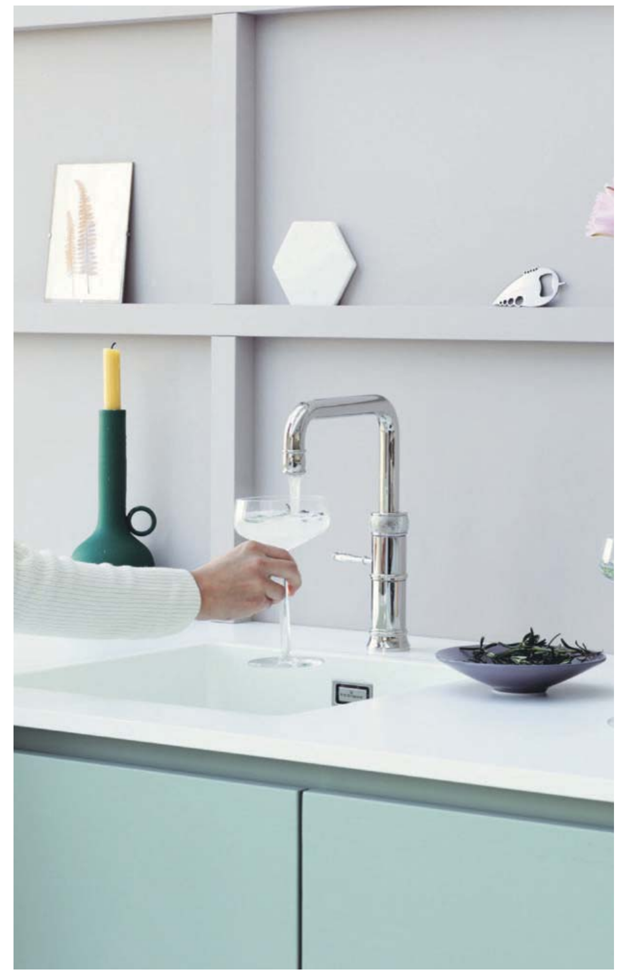
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More than just a tap? It must be a Quooker.



Delivering instant 100°C boiling, hot, cold, as well as filtered chilled and sparkling water, the Quooker is not just a revolution – it's a revelation.

First invented by Dutch physicist Henri Peteri in 1970, what started as a simple yet totally original idea is now a daily reality for hundreds of thousands of users worldwide. So what makes a Quooker so revolutionary? With a Quooker tap you will always have 100°C boiling, hot and cold water on demand. Not only that, by adding our CUBE accessory you can enjoy filtered chilled and sparkling water too!

Save water & energy

A UK report published in 2016 by The Daily Mail, confirmed that as a nation, we waste huge amounts of water and energy by overfilling kettles. When you dispense water from your Quooker tap, you only use the exact amount of water you need. Quooker's patented vacuum tank allows for water to be kept at 110°C under pressure. This technology keeps the water hot without needing to use much energy - much like a flask! The water only boils when it exits the tap - so it is not constantly boiling inside the vessel. Our COMBI reservoir has also been awarded Energy Label A. This reservoir not only supplies boiling water, but also hot water for washing up.

With a Quooker CUBE, you will get filtered chilled and sparkling as well as 100°C boiling, hot and cold water. At last, no more plastic bottles and your chance to help save the planet. Did you know over 38.5 million plastic bottles are used every day in the UK and it takes 3 litres of water to make just one 1 litre bottle!* A single Quooker UK CO_2 cylinder is equivalent to 60 plastic bottles and saves a massive 180 litres in production alone.

With a Quooker you'll be saving plastic waste, water, energy, and time – all from one tap!

"I have the cube and tap. From install to using the product, it's the best money I have spent in my house!" Alex R.

An offer you can't refuse

When you purchase a Quooker CUBE, installation by a Quooker engineer is just £99, (normally £384).

Already have a Quooker tap? You can easily add a CUBE. Visit quooker.co.uk, call 0345 833 3333 or e-mail enquiries@quooker.co.uk for assistance.

*Figures sourced from Quooker UK

NEW virtual demonstration

The Quooker experience allows you to have a one-on-one live meeting where you can see the full range of tap styles, finishes and accessories in action. You control the appointment and what you see. To book your virtual appointment visit quooker.co.uk







Homes, Gardens and Interiors checklist

Here's a variety of ideas for the home or garden – whether they're to make better use of living space or for the family living in that space, these should fire up the imagination

Read more online! Visit *checklists.co.uk* and follow @checklistsocial

Win a Big Dog Bed Company Car Cube

Worth £149!

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checklists.co.uk/win/bigdogbed2

Everyone knows someone with a nervous dog that doesn't like travelling in the car boot. But with children to transport, the back seat of the car can't be filled with dogs either.

Designed for medium to large dogs, the Car Cube helps with this and so much more. The car boot is left free for luggage, shopping and taking things to the dump. Access is easier for older dogs – and no need to use a ramp. The Car Cube uses only one space on the back seat so passengers can still travel alongside.

Big Dog Bed Company also make high-end dog beds and specialist beds for arthritic and incontinent dogs.



Visit *bigdogbedcompany.co.uk* to shop the full range.

MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP cylinder



Mul-T-Lock's MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP cylinder offers homeowners the ultimate peace of mind, with a Police Preferred, independently tested solution to protect against cylinder manipulation attack.

Expertly developed and specifically designed for PVCu and timber doors, MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP provides four individual levels of enhanced mechanical protection. Incorporating patented technology, each element is designed to work in unison to safeguard homeowners against cylinder snapping and bumping attacks.

The cylinder has undergone rigorous testing to meet the Sold Secure Diamond SS312 Standard and achieves Police Preferred specification with Secure by Design.

MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP is one of only a few cylinder solutions to achieve the Kitemark British Standards Institution (BSi) TS007 three-star standard. It is also four times stronger than required when it comes to the accelerated life testing of the BS EN1303:2015 standard.

Claire Blakemore, Mul-T-Lock UK managing director, says: *"Home security is imperative to keep our family and belongings safe and secure. This is especially important during such economic uncertainty, where many are predicting an increase in crime.*

"The MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP offers such high security that insurance approval is guaranteed and will help keep premiums down at such a critical time."

They are so confident with the MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP that it comes standard with a 10-year guarantee and a £3,000 consumer cashback guarantee (visit *mul-t-lock.co.uk* for full terms and conditions).

It can be keyed alike to other cylinder variants, including padlocks, to offer the ultimate convenience of a one-key house where one key can open all your doors, including sheds, gates and garages.

For the ultimate protection and total peace of mind, contact them today on 01902 364200, email *internalsales@mul-t-lock.co.uk*, or visit *mul-t-lock.co.uk* for details of your local Mul-T-Lock Authorised Locksmith.

Powerful plants with breath-taking beauty

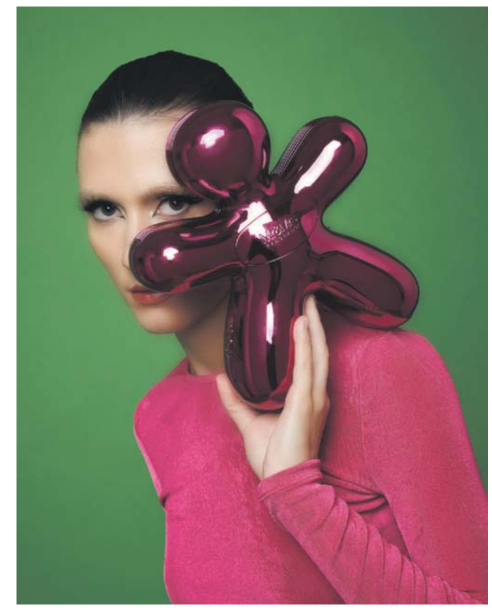


Salvias are one of Ashwood's specialities; they are a fascinating genus of plants which offer great value flower power. All have nectar-rich flowers that are brilliant for attracting bees and they flower throughout summer, continuing their colourful display into autumn. Perfect for summer containers and sunny borders. Available from the nursery or by mail order.

Call 0138 440 1996, visit *ashwoodnurseries.com* or scan the QR code to learn more about Salvias. Ashwood Nurseries, Tea Room and Gift Shop are open seven days a week.

The fragrance diffuser of the future





George II is the epitome of Italian elegance and sophistication, designed by Luca Trazzi, crafted by the renowned Mr and Mrs Fragrances and curated by PopArtFusion. The smart room perfumer is a unique and stylish piece of multi-sensory modern pop art. Senses blend for an unforgettable indulgent home experience. With its sleek lines and intricate details, George II is a revolutionary creation which is sure to be the next must-have for stylish dreamers everywhere.

Dance to your favourite tunes while setting up any fragrance you love – it's perfect for a night of relaxation or even a glamorous party. George II is the fragrance diffuser of the future. Turn it on, insert the capsule of the fragrance you love, connect it to Bluetooth to dance to the notes of your favourite songs, and choose the light mood colour that suits you best. It's the perfect way to relax or have a glamorous party.

Available on *popartfusion.com* and selective retailers.

Cook traditional Italian pizza in your garden this summer

Cook traditional-style Italian pizza at home with the Zio Ciro Subito Cotto 45 oven. Effective and efficient; it heats up to 450°C in just 35 minutes. The Zio Ciro Subito Cotto 45 is a portable and versatile gas pizza oven that packs a punch. It is 100% made in Italy using artisan methods and high-quality materials which allow for extraordinary heat retention performance, even after you put the flame out.



The Subito Cotto models come ready to go; ideal for any outdoor environment such as gardens, balconies and terraces. Not just for pizza – these ovens can be used to cook numerous dishes. With the option to cook using gas or to add wood to emphasise your flavours, it is bound to become the centrepiece of any garden this summer. They also have larger versions of the Subito Cotto oven available, so if size matters, give them a call and they will be more than happy to advise you!

Order a Zio Ciro Subito Cotto 45 for just £1,445 (including VAT) from *pizzaequipment.co.uk* today! Use code COTTO45 to apply the discount at checkout. As well as the Subito Cotto 45, you will receive a complimentary Starter Kit containing a pizza peel, pizza cutter, sauce ladle and two dough proofing boxes with a lid.

For more information call them on 01527 905349 or visit *pizzaequipment.co.uk/product/zio-ciro-subito-cotto-45-gas*

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Work on your golf game from your own garden

garden hideouts



From consultation to completion and beyond, the Garden Hideouts team take care of every detail, ensuring you are at the heart of every aspect of your build. They offer a full rendered design service to assist with visualisations, whether you choose a catalogue model or something fully bespoke; they have integrated simulators with gyms, offices, cinemas and much more.

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In today's world, people are increasingly removed from the natural world. Think of the sprawling cities; the time spent inside cars and buildings. While technological advances can be wonderful, many of the benefits of connecting to nature are lost.

Imagine being able to re-create a living tropical world in your own home and experience the visual wonders of thriving plant life. A place where your mind can escape from the concrete jungle. Now you can. Introducing biOrb AIR.

The biOrb AIR is an intelligent micro-climate for growing tropical plants. It provides everything your plants need to thrive. Lighting, humidity control and air circulation. You can put the biOrb AIR in a room with no daylight and your plants will still thrive.



Find out more at *social.oase.com/biorbair30*

Rock the Heirloom

Amy Eld, owner of Rock the Heirloom, wants to show you how you can mix antiques up with whatever you have in your home to create a relaxed, unorthodox and uniquely stylish look. Rock the Heirloom are a true reflection of her style, and they sell a carefully curated selection of beautiful, quirky and unique pieces that will make you smile.

She says: *"The best thing about my job is the wonderful people that I meet along the way; crazy, colourful, eclectic folk who share a passion for antiques. And it's these people who make up my little black book of dealers and specialists, which helps me find your perfect piece at the right price."*

Visit *rocktheheirloom.co.uk* to view the full range and rock your décor with something old, but new.



Win a ProWare Copper Tri-Ply set of three saucepans

Worth £250!

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checklists.co.uk/win/prowarecopper

For a showstopping set of pans that both cook and look the part, ProWare have you covered.

These pans are loved by ProWare's customers, from home cooks to Michelin-starred chefs. Their copper exterior and aluminium core distribute heat efficiently and evenly, making them ideal for more intricate cooking. The stainless steel interior cooking surface is hard-wearing and easy to clean. The cast stainless steel handle is attached using stainless steel rivets, inserted under 600 tonnes of pressure, so you will never again have a wobbly handle!





Both beautiful and dynamically functional, these pans have many useful features. From a flared lip for pouring to a second handle for lifting the heavier 18cm and 20cm saucepans, they balance home cooking with a professional feel.

ProWare pans are oven safe up to 260°C, making them perfect for transferring from hob-to-oven, and even oven-to-table. They are also easy to store, either nesting in a drawer or cupboard, or hanging on eye-catching display.

One happy ProWare customer, said: *"Beautiful to look at, beautifully made, solid, high quality, and are without doubt the best pans we have ever purchased."*

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To view the full range, visit *shop.proware-kitchen.co.uk* and get 20% off with code MAY20.

Stylish and natural stone finish for walls and furnishings



Marmox Slicedstone's real stone veneers are a lightweight, practical, yet highly visual surface for many different applications, both internally and externally.

Using the latest technology, these veneers are peeled from the surface of Indian sedimentary rock and then re-engineered with a stabilised backing fleece, making them considerably more practical and cost effective than conventional, thicker cut stone tiles.

Suitable for any room in the house; including wet rooms, bathrooms and kitchens. They are ideal for feature walls or door coverings and their flexibility makes them ideal for curved walls and columns. Externally, they can be used as cladding or garden furniture coverings!

There are currently 13 different beautiful styles to choose from, and because they are real stone, each sheet is unique.

The surface of each sheet has been treated with a clear polycarbonate solution to create a stable surface that is waterproof, stain resistant and allows for easy removal of adhesive and grout residue.

Available to order in three different sizes – Small (1,220 x 610mm), Medium (2,100 x 1,050mm) and Large (2,400 x 1,050mm). The product's slimline form, at just 4mm thick, means that you can have the beauty of natural Indian sandstone in your home at just a fraction of the weight!



marmox slicedstone
Large Format Veneer Sheets

For more information visit *marmox.co.uk/slicedstoneveneer*



Image courtesy of Lightfoot Windows (Kent)

Snug fit

CRITTALL

Planning a new look for your home? With many people spending more time at home, householders are becoming increasingly design-savvy by creating a personal style that reflects their lifestyle. Individual style is in.

Russell Ager, managing director of Crittall Windows, a pioneer of bespoke steel frame window manufacturing for almost 180 years, said: *"Creating a cosy snug room is a great way to show individuality. Think dimmable 'focus' lighting, soft furnishings, striking colours, smart TVs, games sections, a book corner for the kids – and sharing natural light throughout your home."*

Clever use of glazing via internal steel screens, doors and windows – made to order to suit your personal needs – ensures that natural light floods in. They look stylish, and have slim, elegant profiles without compromising space, warmth or cosiness.

As the original steel window company, Crittall products are expertly handcrafted by artisans, built to last and uniquely British made.

For more information about Crittall Windows, visit *crittall-windows.co.uk*, call 0137 653 0800, or email *hq@crittall-windows.co.uk*

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An investment in your education lasts a lifetime. We take a look at a range of education ideas, including establishments with excellent facilities and a variety of philosophies

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Fresh colours for inspiring minds



Clairefontaine

Despite the world becoming increasingly digitalised, the need for notepads won't disappear anytime soon. Physically writing notes can aid in the learning process, helping people retain information. Since 1858, Clairefontaine have created notepads with exceptional paper quality. Their products feature the iconic PEFC™ certified, super-smooth 90gsm Clairefontaine, brushed vellum satin-finish paper.

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Win baby and toddler swimming lessons

Worth £150!

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There are few things in life that are more important than teaching children how to swim. Baby swimming lessons are key to keeping your child safe in and around water, as well as being excellent for their development.

For over 20 years, Water Babies has been providing highly trained teachers and expertly developed swim programmes for babies and young children, supporting families of all shapes, sizes and blends.

Now their lessons have moved to the next level – evolving the traditional concept of swimming classes to be even more rewarding. This is an experience where learners will unlock new challenges as their skills develop and uncover missions around core aquatic skills, swimming strokes, and water safety.

Give your child the gift of swimming with confidence.





water babies learn for life®

Lessons are available throughout the UK – scan the QR code to find your nearest class.

Rethinking GCSEs

MONKTON

The relevance of GCSEs is being contested, with claims that they are too narrowly focused on subject knowledge, so students lack the wider skills needed to thrive in the world.

At Monkton, they think differently. While they acknowledge this criticism, they believe that the curriculum of all great schools fosters these aptitudes, but that the national assessment framework leaves no room for their recognition.

They have begun to collaborate with schools, organisations and government; and their goal is to uncover these hidden gems and bring them to light. They have engaged with awarding bodies – including Pearson – to create a way to assess and reward these aptitudes.

This might result in 'aptitude assessments' – alongside GCSEs – which makes the breadth of a student's skills and abilities clearer to future employers and universities.



Their year 9 students have been given the opportunity to assess and collect evidence for two particular aptitudes – 'Collaboration and Communication' and 'Creative Thinking' – this year as part of a national research project spearheaded by Rethinking Assessment.

Their vision is to reveal many of the implicit aptitudes that the students at Monkton already possess. To share and develop their ideas with like-minded educators, they're hosting a conference, 'Making the Implicit Explicit,' on 16 June. You'll hear from Times Education Commissioner Michael Morpurgo and Professor Bill Lucas, with workshops from eight schools that have innovated their curriculums to focus on these aptitudes.



To learn more about their approach, please visit *monktoncombeschool.com* and book your free tickets by scanning the QR code.

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Visit their website at *leb.education* for more information or email them at *enquiry@leb.education* to set up a call or ask questions.

World-leading boarding school

ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE

When staff and students were asked to come up with a social vision statement for St Lawrence College, they chose their words carefully. 'A caring community of kindness, positivity and respect' was the result – and the Head, Barney Durrant, says that this is exactly what parents will find there.

Founded in 1879 under a Christian ethos, the school in Ramsgate, Kent, serves around 600 children aged three to 18. Around 40% of those are boarders and the school is listed in the World's Leading Boarding Schools by Fortune 2023.

The size of the school means that every single child is well known by staff. Peer mentoring, peer support and community events help foster a sense of belonging. St Lawrence College is a High Performance Learning School that empowers every child to achieve academic success and focuses on extracurricular activities such as sport, art, music, drama and volunteering.



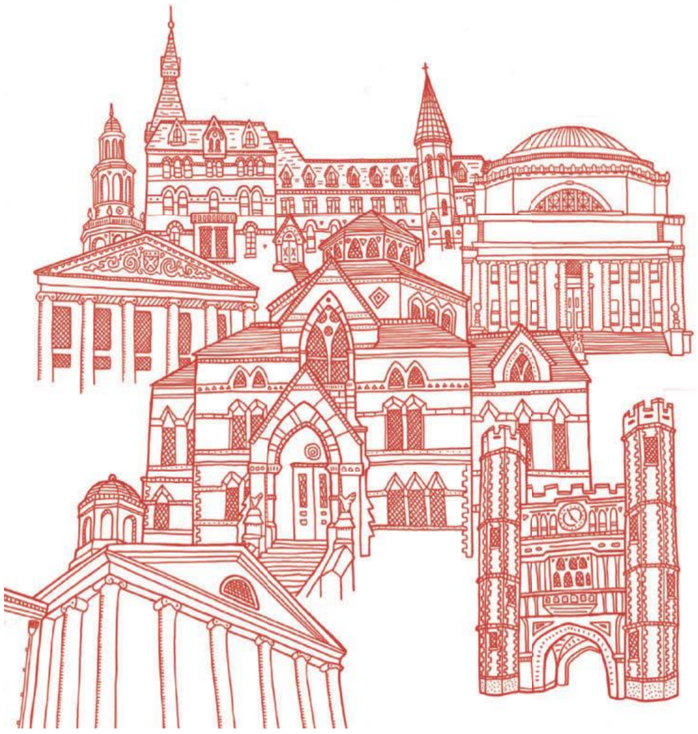


The school encourages open discussion about wellbeing; and all housemasters and housemistresses receive mental-health first aid training. Feeling valued for who they are plays an important role in students' happiness, which is why on International Day, students are encouraged to wear traditional dress, speak about their cultures and share typical food. They have about 30 different nationalities within the school. Helping pupils feel secure and comfortable boosts their self-esteem, which brings enhanced academic results, better life chances, and improves their overall experience of school. Highlighting and celebrating these differences fits with the outlook of St Lawrence College. They are part of a local and global community, creating the leaders of the future – whether that is leading countries, organisations or charities.

For more information, visit *slcuk.com*

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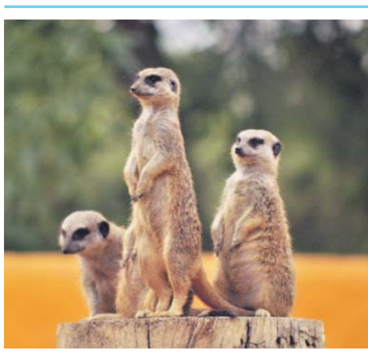
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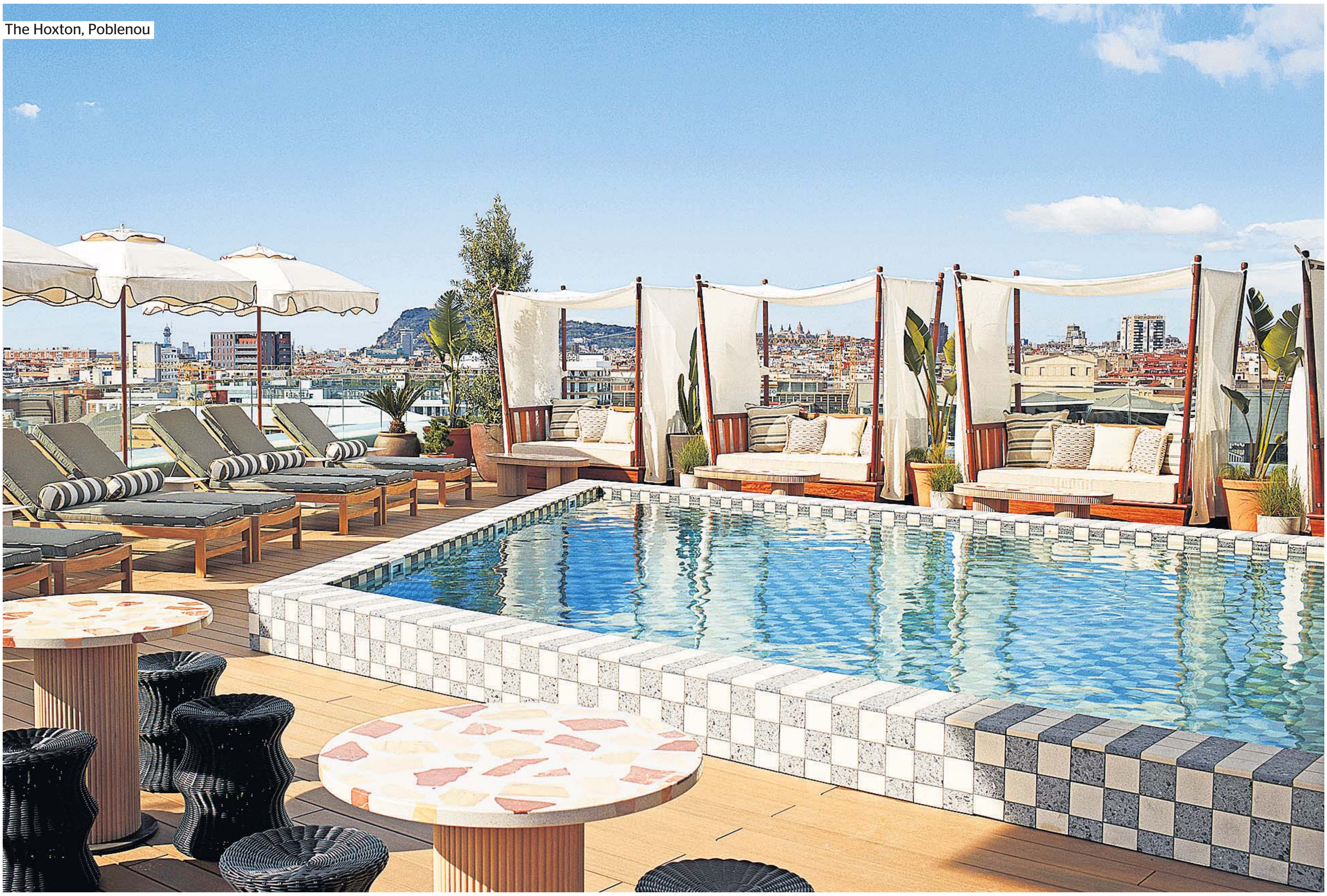
Travel

Page 50

'Lemon and olive trees are the backdrop to 12 villas set over terraces above a remote cove'

Louise Roddon stays at Cephalonia's new retreat

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The Hoxton, Poblenou

The cool guide to Barcelona

The smartest hotels, hottest restaurants, most fun neighbourhoods and latest things to do: Isabella Noble has the lowdown

Catalonia's capital is home to one of Europe's most thrilling hotel scenes. A wave of wildly creative design-led properties has landed in recent years, many of them taking inspiration from Barcelona's Mediterranean landscapes, renowned architecture and rich heritage. Intimate boutique hotels, designer havens and personality-packed B&Bs mingle with landmark grande dames and reimagined Modernista mansions.

So where to base yourself? Staying within the Ciutat Vella (Old City) puts you in the medieval heart, where narrow lanes are crammed with monuments and museums. Busy but handy for everything, the Barri Gotic has some gorgeous hotel conversions of historic buildings. Neighbouring La Ribera has a more creative vibe; great restaurants, nightlife and shopping, and major sights including the Museu Picasso and the Parc de la Ciutadella. West of the Barri Gotic, El Raval is a lively and buzzy multicultural district.

North from the Ciutat Vella, Barcelona opens up into the broad, leafy, grid-like Eixample area. This is where you'll find most of the city's celebrated Modernista architecture, including Antoni Gaudí's masterpieces, along with high-end shops and excellent restaurants. Accommodation-wise, it's a wonderland of luxury hotels and boutique properties. Down by the beach, there are a few glamorous five stars, and you'll have maritime Barceloneta on the doorstep.



Serras, Port Vell

Going for a hotel outside the centre means better value, fewer crowds and a slower pace. Village-like Gracia, just north of Eixample, is perfect if you fancy getting to know the local vibe and visiting some buzzing vermouth bars. Post-industrial Poblenou, to the northeast, has a flourishing art-and-design scene, less touristy beaches and tapas bars along Rambla del Poblenou.

Sant Antoni, bordering El Raval, has grown into one of Barcelona's trendiest neighbourhoods, and Poble Sec is the easygoing district at the foot of Montjuic hill, which has famously great pintxo bars.

So options galore, then, and that's before we start talking about the wealth of new places to eat and drink, as well as interesting new tours and cultural happenings, all listed here too. You may need more than one trip to take it all in.

Great hotels next page

Ciutat Vella (Old City)

Yurbban Passage

A 19th-century textiles factory on the northern edge of La Ribera has been ingeniously reborn as an art-loving boutique joy where there's even a stylish flower bar. *Irma's Dream*, a sculpture by the Catalan artist Jaume Plensa, greets guests at the door, while an intimate, adults-only vegan spa awaits beneath whitewashed arches. There's an easy-breezy feel to the 60 pared-back rooms, which have yoga mats, works by local artists and (for some) balconies or terraces. Soak up the wraparound views from the heavenly rooftop bar and take a dip in the cool granite pool.
Details Room-only doubles from £174 (yurbbanpassage.com)

Hotel Neri

It doesn't get more perfectly Barcelona than a chicly restored medieval mansion in the thick of the history-heavy Barri Gotic, with the cathedral a short stroll away. Spread across two buildings dating from the 12th and 18th centuries, this coveted bolt hole has 22 calming rooms, some with outdoor bathtubs on intimate sun-drenched terraces. Lively print rugs, local fabrics and monochrome photographs mingle with historical touches (open-stone arches, sweeping ceilings). Dining on citrus-infused crayfish carpaccio and octopus and garlic rice on the Placa de Sant Felip Neri is bliss (mains from £14), or retreat to the rooftop terrace with its sunbeds, gardens, lounge bar and dip pool.
Details Room-only doubles from £330 (hotelneri.com)

Kimpton Vividora

When the cult Barcelona design team El Equipo Creativo is involved in a hotel it's almost guaranteed to be a knockout. In a restored Barri Gotic building just north of the cathedral, Spain's first Kimpton is a haven for travellers seeking a super-central base with style. Sunny tones, sea-blue tiles and swirly-white marble sweep through the 156 rooms; thoughtful touches include yoga mats, Carner Barcelona toiletries and bikes and skateboards for zipping around town. Its restaurant, Fauna, does creative Catalan-inspired cooking (mains from £21), if you can lure yourself from the sun-soaked roof terrace with a metallic pool, artisan cocktails and super views.
Details Room-only doubles from £195 (kimptonvividorahotel.com)

Eixample

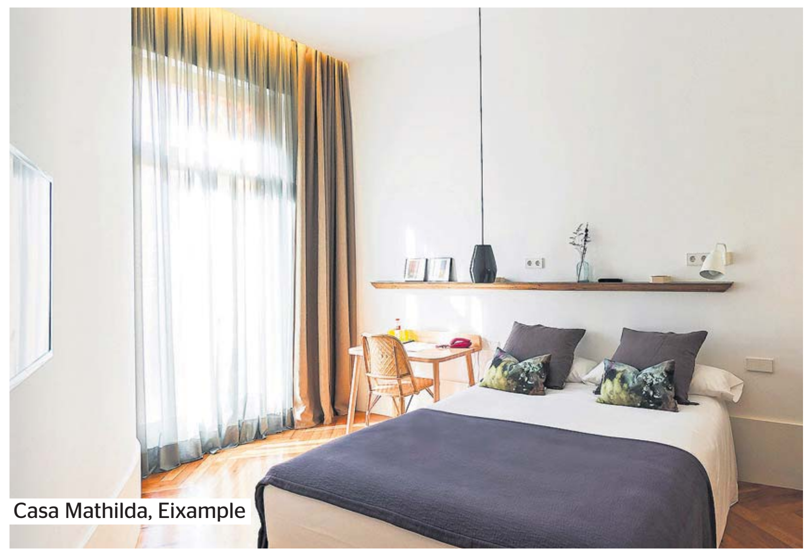
El Palace Barcelona

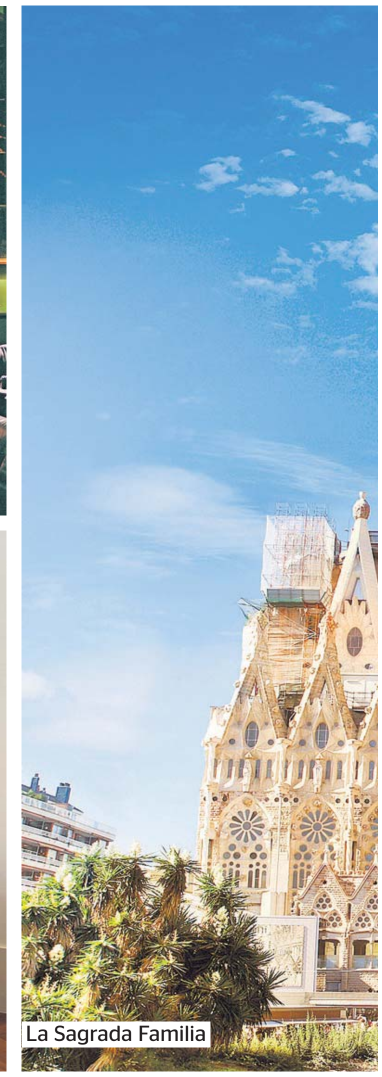
Step off Gran Via into El Palace's mirrored lobby and you're instantly swept into a five-star wonderland of carpeted corridors, 114 classically elegant rooms and six Art Suites honouring past celebrity guests, from Josephine Baker to Ronnie Wood. Founded in 1919, this landmark address was originally Barcelona's Ritz. Over the past few years, a switched-on team has injected fresh energy, bringing in DJ-set brunches, cocktail-accompanied art classes, alfresco yoga and foodie pop-ups such as this summer's L'Arros, serving Costa Brava-style rice dishes on the fabulous jasmine-scented roof terrace. Then there's Amar, the moody-blue-and-gold restaurant that opened in 2022 and is led by Rafa Zafra, who has fine-dining fun with sea-fired flavours — crayfish carpaccio, caviar and butter brioche, and ponzu-dressed oysters (mains from £25).
Details Room-only doubles from £292 (hotelpalacebarcelona.com)

Casa Bonay

The hotel that kick-started Barcelona's lobby-hangout scene is still one of the city's dreamiest places to stay thanks to its fun creative vibe, Catalan-crafts design touches, popular restaurants and thoughtful extras (you can borrow a bike to explore). People tap away on laptops at Libertine before it morphs into a sultry cocktail bar, and the restaurant Bodega Bonay serves Italian-Catalan dishes such as pork belly on tomato bread (dishes from £8). This summer also brings the return of Casa Bonay's rooftop restaurant Chiringuito, for barbecued sardines and local tomato salads (dishes from £10), along with a new coffee spot, TosTao. The converted 19th-century building, with 67 rooms, lies just off Tetuan and is a stylish treat where local brands take centre stage in the decor, from handcrafted Teixidors blankets to Estudio Sauvage flowers.
Details Room-only doubles from £145 (casabonay.com)


Casa Bonay, Eixample


Casa Mathilda, Eixample


La Sagrada Familia

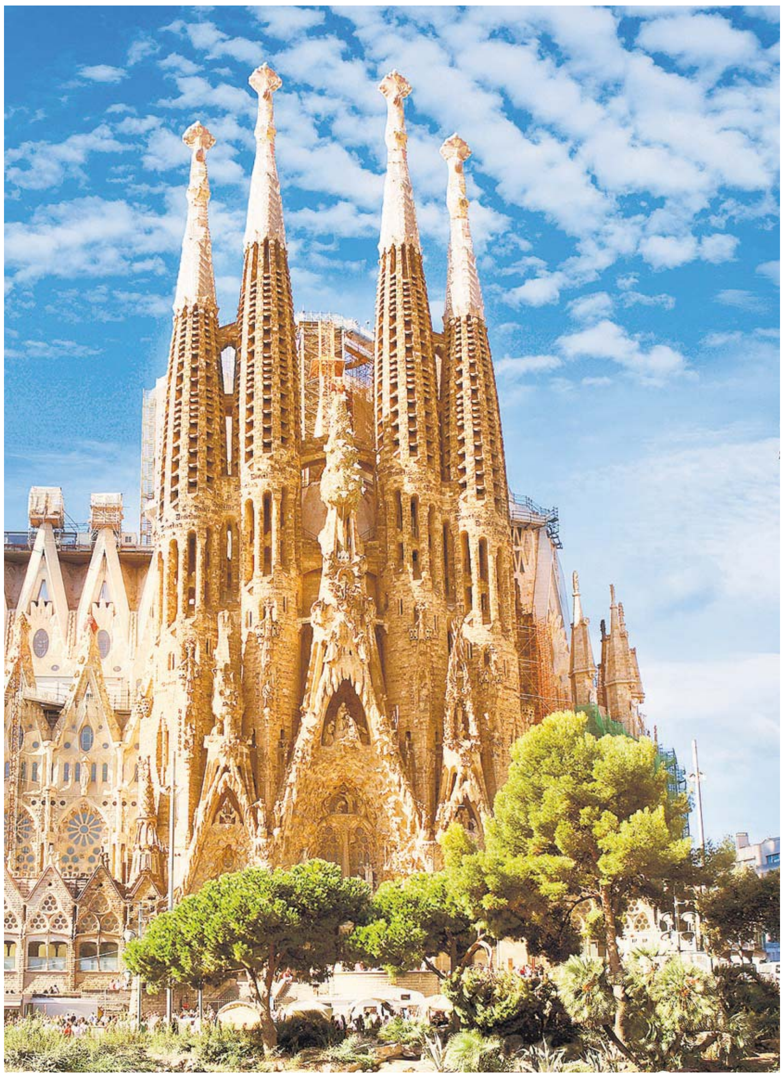
Sir Victor

Popular with a style-driven creative crowd, Barcelona's outpost of the Sir Hotels brand is a landmark building with a bold white-limestone façade, just off Passeig de Gracia in the north Eixample. It's named after the revolutionary Catalan writer Víctor Català (the pen name of Caterina Albert) and the library spotlights works by female authors. The city's Mediterranean colours infuse the entire place — earthy reds, cool blues — and many of the 91 rooms have garden-view balconies. Mr Porter, the very cool lobby restaurant, dazzles with superb steaks, buttery chargrilled cauliflower and expertly mixed cocktails (mains from £23). Over a Morro Fi vermouth by the rooftop dip pool, you'll glimpse Gaudí's La Pedrera and the Sagrada Família.
Details Room-only doubles from £228 (sirhotels.com)

Casa Mathilda

The first floor of a light-filled 1920s Modernista building in the northern Eixample area has been reborn as a gorgeous, independent B&B with boutique flair. Pick from just 14 rooms, which have Catalan-style tilework, soft-toned palettes and refillable water bottles (no single-use plastics here); some open directly onto the back terrace. The whole property has a personal home-from-home feel. Linger over breakfast under the bougainvillaea for a feast of local flavours, including





AMIT GERON; MERCÈ GOST; ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES



Antiga Casa Buenavista, El Raval

bread from the beloved Barcelona bakery Baluard.
Details Room-only doubles from £84 (casamathilda.com)

Praktik Garden

The small, Barcelona-born Praktik chain has a crop of great-value, boutique-inspired hotels dotted around Eixample. This stylish mid-sized original branch brings a bright, floral-themed feel to a smoothly converted Dreta de l'Eixample building. In classic Barcelona style, both the plant-filled back terrace (a haven among the busy streets) and the best light-flooded rooms overlook a sweeping interior courtyard. The location is ideal too — just a few blocks from lively Passeig de Sant Joan and the shops of the Passeig de Gracia.
Details Room-only doubles from £70 (hotelpraktikgarden.com)

Room Mate Gerard

The popular Spanish Room Mate brand goes big on style and personality at sensible prices. The pick of its four Barcelona hotels (all in Eixample) is a 66-room design-led revamp of a traditional neighbourhood building on a quiet leafy street, just steps from Passeig de Sant Joan, Gran Via and the Arc de Triomf. The designer Jaime Beriestain is behind the bold look, which plays with midnight-blue velvets, terrazzo floors and geometric furnishings. There's a glimpse of Tibidabo mountain from the low-key rooftop, with sunbeds and a small pool, and you can kick off the day with outdoor yoga classes.
Details Room-only doubles from £95 (room-matehotels.com)

The Majestic

A luxe favourite since it launched in 1918, the Majestic has the allure of a swish five-star while keeping things fresh, elegant and unstuffy. Take the romantic dinner-only restaurant SOLC (dishes from £14), an imaginative celebration of classic Catalan cuisine starring produce sourced from specialist local producers or the hotel's own gardens up the coast in Maresme (the rice dishes are glorious). A 2022 revamp overhauled the dreamy top-floor spa, too, where Natura Bissé treatments and a sleek water circuit now tempt you in. In the 271 rooms, it's all smooth taupes, bright light, marble bathrooms and avant garde art. A plunge pool, bar and 360-degree views grace the rooftop.
Details Room-only doubles from £224 (majestichotelgroup.com)

By the beach

Hotel Arts Barcelona

Wake up to the deep-blue Mediterranean sparkling outside your window at this five-star seafront icon designed by the Colombian-American architect Bruce Graham, with the less-touristy Poblenou beaches on the doorstep. A fizz on arrival among beautiful flowers sets the tone. Light-filled rooms and penthouses channel effortless glamour; lush gardens sprawl around two pools; and the spa offers signature treatments up on the 43rd floor. For 2023, culinary arrivals include the Japanese pop-up Roka (of London fame) and speakeasy-style the Pantry (for organic-Catalan produce). But the serious wow moment is dining at the two-Michelin-star Enoteca Paco Pérez, where tasting menus celebrate flavours from the northern Costa Brava (16-course menu £180).
Details Room-only doubles from £308 (hotelartsbarcelona.com)

Serras

The five-star Serras wows regulars with its fusion of good design and a relaxed atmosphere in a reimagined mid-19th-century building with history (Picasso once had a studio here). The 28 rooms are fresh and smart — hydraulic tiling, Diptyque toiletries, luxurious mattresses, and balconies gazing out on the Barri Gotic or the Port Vell marina. On the gastronomic scene, the respected chef Marc Gascons heads up the wonderful creative-Catalan restaurant Informal (mains from £21). Jabugo ham croquettes, grilled prawn rice and other signature plates can also be enjoyed on the chic rooftop, which has a small pool and a cocktail bar. A 15-minute walk leads to Barceloneta's golden beach, and you're also on the southern edge of the monument-filled Barri Gotic.
Details Room-only doubles from £267 (serrashotel.com)



Sir Victor, Eixample

H10 Port Vell

The reliable Catalonia-founded H10 Hotels chain has 15 in Barcelona, but its Port Vell outpost, in the harbour area, is particularly tempting, with a sun-washed rooftop that has a plunge pool, an open-air bar and sprawling views. Rooms channel a fresh seaside feel, in whites and creams, and it's handy for hitting the beach, a ten-minute stroll away, as well as for the lively El Born and Barri Gotic areas.
Details Room-only doubles from £68 (h10hotels.com)

Outer neighbourhoods

The Hoxton, Poblenou

When the creative Hoxton brand set its sights on the Catalan capital, it was the design-forward Poblenou district that caught its attention. Launched last year, this outpost is entered through a lively lobby café with a hand-painted wave-like mural by the local artist Maria Marvila sweeping around the bar. The refreshed vintage vibe continues in the 240 arty rooms, which all have bespoke tapestries, floral-print fabrics, terracotta floors and moody tile-walled bathrooms. Sunsets at the buzzy rooftop taqueria Tope, the Sagrada Família's spires glinting in the distance, are dreamy, and there's also a chequerboard plunge pool up here.
Details Room-only doubles from £127 (thehoxton.com)

Nobu Hotel Barcelona

The hotly awaited launch this June of ultra-chic Nobu's 25th-floor rooftop bar, pool and garden is more than enough reason to make a beeline for on-the-up Sants district. Then there's the fabulous sky-high restaurant, where Nobu Matsuhisa's signature Japanese-rooted creations are ingeniously fused with fresh Catalan ingredients, and lychee-elderflower martinis are mixed under a trencadis-style ceiling as the evening sky turns pink (dishes from £17). The 259 rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, fun touches such as Marshall speakers and what might just be the city's cosiest sink-right-in beds. Downstairs, the spa is the ultimate urban oasis — try a Natura Bissé facial or a candle massage with organic Seed to Skin products.
Details Room-only doubles from £161 (nobuhotels.com)

Antiga Casa Buenavista

The city's coolest neighbourhood has a hot new place to stay. Bordering Sant Antoni and El Raval, this boutique beauty with 43 rooms inhabits a late-19th-century building that was once a *casa de menjars* (meals house) — it's still owned by the same family. The frescoed Modernista façade gives way to a whirl of vaulted ceilings and hydraulic tilework. Superior Buenavista pads have terraces with open-air bathtubs, while up on the rooftop, gorgeous gardens frame a pale turquoise pool.
Details Room-only doubles from £155 (hotelcasabuenavista.com)

Hotel Brummell

Behind a restored 1870 façade in buzzy Poble Sec, this soulful 20-room hotel blends a mellow local vibe with Nordic-style design, tropical touches and European and Sri Lankan antiques. Days start with breakfast on the patio, followed perhaps by a group run up the Montjuic hill, a yoga class in the on-site studio or exploring by bike. Out the back, a turquoise pool glints among the terrace gardens. Book a Brummell Penthouse for city views from the bed and an open-air jade-tiled bath on the large balcony. The popular neighbourhood restaurant Palo Cortao has recently moved in too, bringing along Jerez sherries, natural wines and inventive Andalusian tapas such as Huelva prawn fritters, tomato and mackerel salad, and honey-miso aubergines (mains from £14).
Details Room-only doubles from £114 (hotelbrummell.com)

Pol & Grace

For energy and art-driven style north of the centre, you can't beat boutiquey, pet-friendly Pol & Grace, just steps from Sant Gervasi metro. You'll probably find a pop-up exhibition or a DJ session on the rooftop, where potted palms rustle in the breeze and even the punchy-coloured pillars are an art intervention. The 61 rooms have been designed in crisp creams as a retreat from the urban buzz. Gaudí's early-career Casa Vicens is a five-minute wander away (£15; casavicens.org), as are Gracia's wonderful vermouth and tapas bars.
Details Room-only doubles from £79 (polgracehotel.es)

Next page: what to do

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

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Godafoss Waterfall, Iceland


Copenhagen


Stokksnes, Iceland


Athens


Istanbul


Mykonos

Icelandic Intrigue

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Fly to Copenhagen then spend two days sampling the Danish cuisine and exploring the churches, museums and stunning architecture.

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Day 4 **Gothenburg, Sweden**

Days 5-6 **Relaxing at sea**

Day 7 **Djupivogur, Iceland**
This beautiful quaint town offers opportunities to visit Jökulsárlón, a magical glacial lagoon.

Day 8 **Vopnafjorour**

Day 9 **Akureyri**
Choose a trip to Godafoss, one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Iceland, and enjoy a geothermal dip in the natural baths.

Day 10 **Isafjordur**

Day 11 **Akranes**

Day 12 **Heimaey, Westman Islands**
The island is ringed by tall, vertical sea cliffs many hundreds of feet high and home to over eight million Atlantic puffins.

Days 13-14 **Relaxing at sea**

Day 15 **Kristiansand, Norway**

Day 16 **Skagen, Denmark**

Day 17 **Disembark Seabourn Ovation**

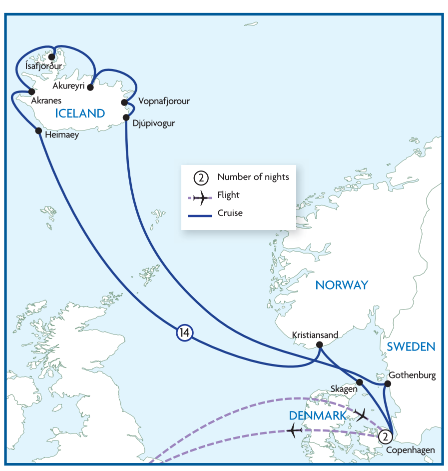
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Day 3 **Spetses**

Day 4 **Crete**

Day 5 **Kusadasi for Ephesus, Turkey**
The history of Ephesus is rich and diverse, stroll the winding streets to discover the monumental ruins.

Day 6 **Mykonos, Greece**
Explore whitewashed houses, domed churches, imposing windmills, and a labyrinth of winding streets.

Day 7 **Skiathos**
Best known for its beaches, choose to head to secluded pristine sands accessible only by small boats.

Day 8 **Tenedos, Turkey**

Days 9-10 **Istanbul**
Disembark Seabourn Encore and spend time discovering the many gems of the city including the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Grand Bazaar.

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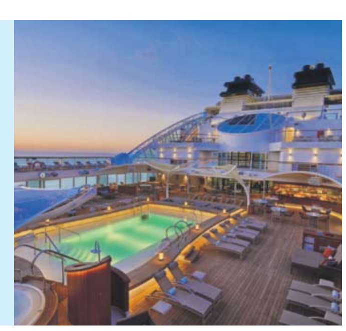
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Cool Barcelona

Where to go, eat and drink

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Montserrat monastery

Restaurants and bars

Besta

An irresistible world of Catalan-Galician seafood fusion awaits at understated Besta, in a foodie pocket of the stylish Esquerra de L'Eixample neighbourhood. Imaginative weekly menus might mean smoked-beef tartare, octopus, potato and orange salad and razor clams topped with lemon and jalapeño (dishes from £10, bestabarcelona.com). The chefs Carles Ramon and Manuel Núñez also run the popular Batea (sharing plates from £8, bateabarcelona.com), 15 minutes' walk away.

Fismuler

The menu changes every day at the market-based favourite Fismuler, in the La Ribera area, where three former El Bulli chefs wow diners with creamy burrata drizzled with zingy olive oil, sea bass in green-pepper sauce and omelettes stuffed with Mallorcan sobrasada (sharing plates from £9, fismuler.com).

Brugarol X

Divine market-fired, farm-to-table dining in an intimate restaurant in Esquerra de L'Eixample, Brugarol X blends Catalan and Japanese flavours. There's also a tiny branch in the Barri Gotic (six-course tasting menus from £52, brugarolbarcelona.com).

Mont Bar

Now led by the chef Fran Agudo (previously at the Adrià brothers' legendary restaurant Tickets), the Eixample's laid-back Mont Bar recently bagged a Michelin star. It's loved by in-the-know gastronomes for its elevated product-first cooking, such as bite-sized corn-and-jalapeño cruixent and tuna belly with pine nut emulsion (dishes from £5, 16-course tasting menus £118, montbar.com).

Benzina & Doppietta

With cool, warehouse style and expertly curated background beats, this side-by-side duo on one of Barcelona's trendiest streets in Sant Antoni does rave-worthy modern Italian cooking and ambitious cocktails, led by the chef Nicola Valle. Doppietta has more classic flavours (dishes from £10, doppietta.es), while Benzina specialises in creative plates — try the delicious guanciale carbonara (dishes from £10, benzina.es).

Bar del Pla

It's always a guaranteed good time at El Born's lively go-to tapas spot, all vaulted ceilings and chatty atmosphere. Bar del Pla brings a creative touch to Catalan classics: L'Escala anchovies, patatas bravas, mushrooms drenched in wasabi. Fine natural wines are another speciality (tapas from £8, bardelpla.cat).

Vermouth bars in Gracia

Joining the Gracia neighbourhood's vermouth scene often means just grabbing any free table on its villagey squares. Bodega Neus, Vermuteria del Tano, Bodega Marin and La Vermu are all popular vermouth bars (vermouths from £2).

Cocina Hermanos Torres

Thanks to the hotshot brothers Javier and Sergio Torres, Barcelona now has its third three-Michelin-star restaurant. A reborn tyre workshop with an open-plan kitchen in untouristed Les Corts is the backdrop for some of the country's most thrilling, season-rooted, sustainability-driven tasting menus (16-course tasting menus £240, cocinahermanostorres.com).

Compartir Barcelona

Headed up by the respected team behind the city's two-Michelin-star Disfrutar, this Cadaques-born sensation landed in Barcelona last year. Everything is designed to share and surprise, with Catalan flavours and buckets of creativity in plates such as tarragon-bearnaise Ebro Delta mussels and rice with jamon (dishes from £12, compartirbarcelona.com).



Benzina restaurant

Paradiso

Named the planet's best cocktail bar in 2022 by World's 50 Best, this sultry haven in El Born mixes its prizewinning creations under a wavy Gaudí-inspired ceiling. Join the online waiting list and prepare to be wowed by signature cocktail the Cloud, which features mezcal, hibiscus and a foamy coffee "cloud" (cocktails from £12, paradiso.cat).

Extra Bar

It's absolutely worth the wait for a perch at Gracia's wonderful little Extra Bar, which specialises in small plates bursting with market-fresh flavours — tomato and anchovy salad, and potato omelette with botifarra sausage (from £4).

Denassus

Natural Catalan wines, superb tapas and a lively informal vibe go hand in hand at this all-day charmer with a buzzy terrace in the fun Poble Sec area under the Montjuic hill. There are roast chicken croquettes, pulled pork brioche, truffled tortilla and, of course, a house spin on patatas bravas (tapas from £5, denassus.com).

Can Fisher

For beautiful rice dishes beside the Mediterranean, head to Bogatell beach, bordering Poblenou. The hugely popular Can Fisher restaurant uses local Ebro Delta-grown rice in delectable numbers such as arros del senyoret (everything-peeled seafood rice), and "zero km" local produce features in all its Catalan plates (mains from £17, canfisher.com).

Albe

Just off Passeig Gracia, the stylish gastrobar Albe is making a name for itself on Barcelona's gastronomic scene by bringing Lebanese flavours to Catalan-style dishes. So you might try Palamos-prawn baklava, smoked-butter cauliflower or locally grown aubergine with tahini and pomegranate (sharing plates from £10, albebarcelona.com).

La Textil

An ever-evolving line-up of house-brewed craft beers and natural wines is just the beginning at this industrial-style bar and restaurant. Dishes feature fermented ingredients and change with the seasons — from almond-miso oysters to mushrooms in Japanese katsuobushi cream, made from tuna (dishes from £8, latextil.beer).

Betlem

This locally loved haunt in the Dreta de L'Eixample area has classic tapas and platillos (sharing plates) that have been given a light creative touch, served in a converted late 19th-century colmado (a deli-like shop) where menus are chalked up on the board (tapas from £5, betlem.es).

What to do

Picasso Year

Two of Barcelona's headline galleries, the Museu Picasso and the Fundació Joan Miró, have teamed up for the 2023 Picasso Year, which marks 50 years since the death of Pablo Picasso. From October 19 to February 25, 2024, Miró-Picasso explores the friendship between the two artists and their connection with Barcelona (entry TBC, museupicassobcn.cat).

Mirador Torre Glories

The shimmering, cucumber-shaped Poblenou tower, designed by Jean Nouvel in 2005, has finally flung open its doors to visitors, who can survey the city and nearby Sagrada Familia from a 125m-high observation deck. There's an interactive sculpture, Cloud Cities Barcelona, that you're welcome to clamber through too (from £13, miradortorreglories.com).

Cava & Montserrat

Join a new, expert-guided small-group day trip to get in early to the millennium-old Montserrat monastery just outside Barcelona, before heading on to a family-owned cava bodega in the Penedes wine region, where you can help with harvesting grapes and taste wines produced here for more than a century (£147, devourtours.com).

Gaudí & music

Each summer Gaudí's otherworldly La Pedrera building hosts jazz concerts on its undulating rooftop, among the distinctive medieval knight-shaped chimneys (£33, lapedrera.com). Neighbouring Casa Batllo, another colourful Gaudí masterpiece, is joining the fun with open-air flamenco, rumba, jazz and more (£50, casabatllo.es).

Barcelona Design Tours

For a deep dive into the city's cutting-edge design world, join a Shops & Showrooms tour, which visits local studios, boutiques and more, or an in-depth itinerary around trendy Poblenou's forward-thinking architecture (£147 for two, barcelonadesigntours.com).

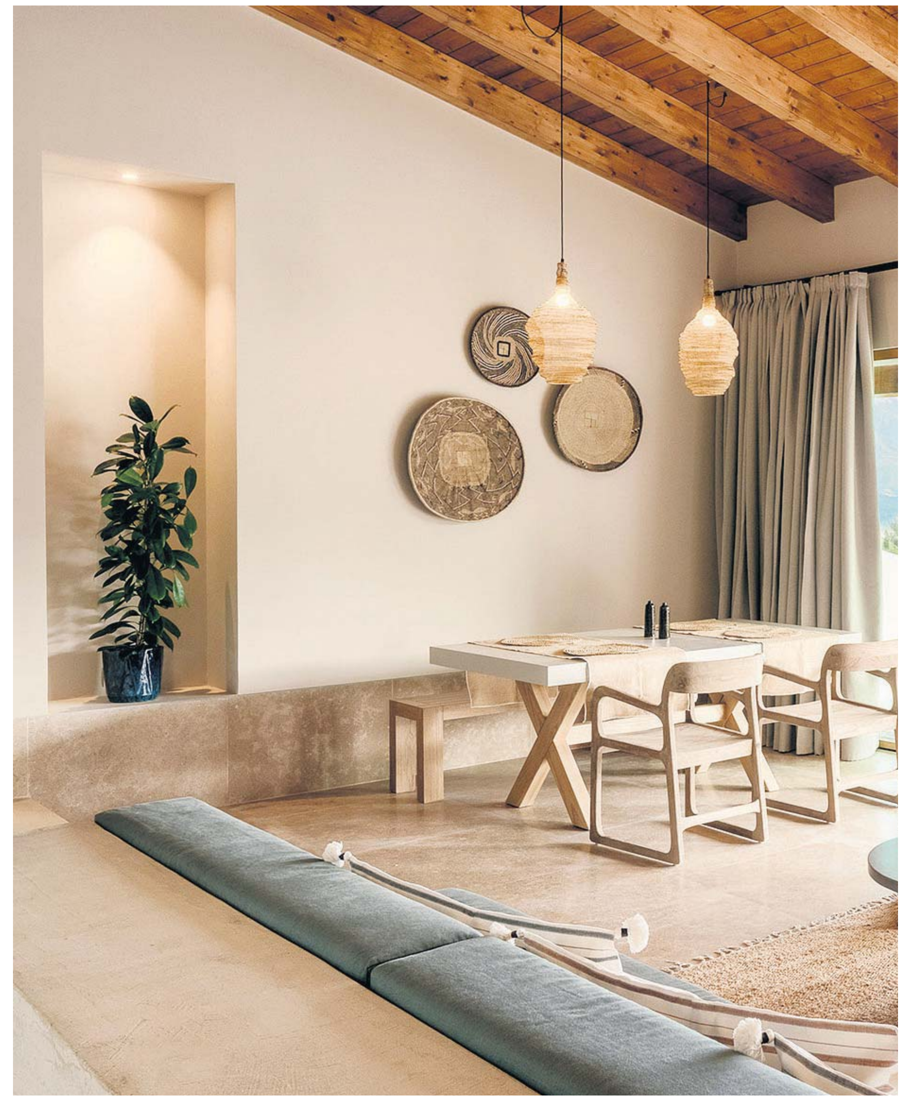
Yoga with a view

Frizzant runs rooftop yoga classes at inspiring addresses such as El Palace hotel, the five-star Mandarin Oriental Barcelona and the Casa de les Punxes (a Modernista gem), and has its own studio and café in Eixample (from £15, frizzant.com).

Luxury Greece

Chic new stay in Cephalonia's quieter south

A boutique resort with sea-view pool villas makes a laid-back base for exploring the island's lesser-known coast. Louise Roddon checks in for a sneak preview





I do love a hardy Greek goat. I love goats generally, but there's something about the Hellenic variety that I find utterly endearing. All that hooligan rock-perching, bells muttering about their necks, not to mention the devil eyes. Small wonder Pan had such a good time of it in Arcadia.

Well, now I find myself in a latter-day Arcadia — Cephalonia in fact — and apparently on this island goats come with golden teeth. I know; extraordinary stuff. Something to do with the plants they munch and the glinting metals in the soil. Whatever the reason, it seems a fitting quirk for an island that's pretty much golden in the first place.

If you've been to Cephalonia you'll know of Myrtos beach, whose white shingle and dazzling turquoise waters will turn even the clunkiest of Instagrammers (moi) into a professional. Then there's the excellent chablis-style robola wines and idyllic fishing villages, and gilding this island still further is a new boutique resort, the Eliamos Villas Hotel & Spa.

For such a lovely island, Cephalonia has surprisingly few five-star properties. Instead, mid-range hotels centre on the popular seasidey north, in the towns of Assos, Sami and Fiskardo. And this is one of the reasons that Eliamos's founders, headed by Spyro Korsianos, a businessman, and his architect-designer wife, Maike, chose the unspoilt south for their dream retreat.

I've come for a few days' preview, and already the place feels beautifully bedded in. Flower-filled gardens of poppies, jasmine, gorse and lavender mix with lemon tree saplings and transplanted olive trees — and these are the blowsy backdrop to 12 villas set over terraces above a remote cove near Spartia village.

Whether you pick a one-bedroom villa or a sprawling space with three doubles, there is certainly room here to breathe. And privacy. It's the sort of place that Greg from *Succession* might book for time away with a new squeeze. Or perhaps Connor's wife, Willa, who would find in this delicious environment a place where she could rest those startled Bambi eyes of hers, and simply soak up the peace.

In the villas' open-plan living areas vast picture windows are draped in slubby linen to soften that dazzling Greek light. Inevitably, though, your attention settles on the outside — and in particular the milky Ionian. In fact the sea is a constant backdrop to the property, framed as it is by a sloping headland that leads the eye to lofty Mount Ainos, the only national park on a Greek island.

Outside each villa is a generously sized private saltwater pool with taupe and blue tiles. Canopied tables too, allowing for alfresco dining, and around that pool, stacks of squashy sofas and recliners. The villas' traditional exteriors meld beautifully with the setting: terracotta tiled roofs mixing with earthy-toned walls.

Families are welcome, though I wouldn't recommend bringing toddlers as the villas' tiered stone floors, both indoors and out, are too much of a buttock-clenching tripping hazard. Babes in arms should be fine, and possibly pre-teens and enthusiastic teens. The hotel's planned activities of Jeep safaris and stargazing from the top of Mount Ainos might help eliminate complaints of boredom.

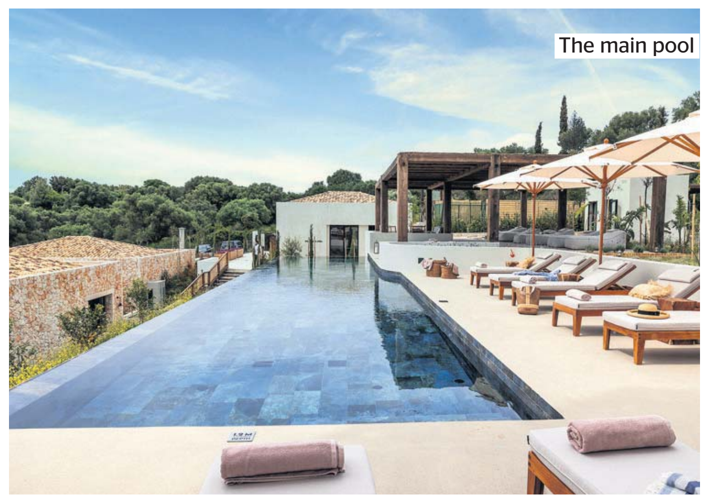
Maike created Eliamos's look and she has an excellent eye. Think polished plaster, reclaimed rustic-chic teak furnishings and low-slung sofas. Add to those raffia pendant lamps and walls decorated with attractively decorative woven mats. Bathrooms, too, have faultless outdoor and indoor showers — and apart from a dearth of hooks and no make-up mirrors, the result is pretty near perfect.

Goodness, it's tempting just to wallow here, but there's Cephalonia to explore and my girlfriend, Helen, and I want to cram in as much as possible. So off we skedaddle around the south, exploring those beaches that indent its nibbled coastline. Narrow roads are lined with fulsome olive groves. The occasional religious shrine breaks up the rural backdrop and eventually we tumble down to a tiny cove near Liakas. Here a craggy sea arch gives onto a rocky

PANTELIS KONSOLAKIS


A Thalassa villa


A bathroom


The main pool

platform from which steps lead down to topaz-toned waters. Admittedly it's early in the season, but the very inaccessibility of this and other beaches means you can easily unearth an empty spot. Even Galini's thumbnail curve of sands, framed by unpretentious fish tavernas, gives a sense of something beautifully undiscovered.

Later, taking the old Venetian road east, the interior of the island opens up. Pillowy gorse-filled meadows meet brilliant-green terraced vineyards, the bucolic lushness offset by the dark verticals of cypress trees. Above are perched villages and, always making its presence felt, Mount Ainos, its belly encircled by a band of thick cloud.

It is Sunday, and at the small town of Valsamata the enormous monastery church of St Gerasimos (the island's patron saint) adjoins Orealios winery, a co-operative for robola wines set up by Spyro's grandfather. It's here that we decide to stop for a spot of lunch at Mpotsolos taverna, and the place is packed with families fresh out of Mass.



Decibels rise to glass-shattering levels. Babies are dandled from plump arms; toddlers play hectic games of chase and the town's young priest circles the tables, shaking hands and stopping for a chat with old grannies, before making a hasty exit.

We are the only tourists here. Not that it matters. A spare table is quickly set and what follows is a delicious feast of Greek salad, spice-studded mizithra cheese, crispy chips and a mound of grilled goat ribs. "Eat, eat!" urges our waiter, so putting aside my passion for these frisky beasts, I tuck in. They are delicious in a pungently goaty way, and surprisingly tender.

We return to Eliamos with bulging bellies but, hey, there's always room for a little more. Yes, we could have self-catered (apart from the one-bedroom villas, all have reasonably well-equipped kitchenettes), but the restaurant here is remarkably good, serving a pleasing twist on Greek cuisine with a strong backbone of seasonal, locally sourced produce.

Zinging flavours hallmark the creations of 34-year-old Socrates Malinganis, whose career included time as head chef at Oia in Santorini. We particularly like his crunchy tomato fritters served with a herby yoghurt, then marinated tomatoes mixed with confit peaches, roasted almonds and olive oil. Another highlight is tender octopus cooked sous vide on a fava bean spread. The fish dishes, spanning sea bream with celery root puree to salmon with shrimp bisque and asparagus, are spot on; and the breakfasts, though slow to be served, are pretty decent. Local yoghurt comes sprinkled with fruit and homemade granola. Cooked dishes include eggs poached at 63 degrees (a tad too wobbly for my liking) served on smashed avocado and charcoal bread.

All this guzzling calls for a bit of much-needed exercise, and Eliamos has a fleet of e-bikes, an expansive saltwater infinity pool and a spacious open-air yoga deck where leather-covered weights mix with top-of-the-range Pilates Reformer machines — the fitness tool beloved of celebs including Adele, Hailey Bieber and Margot Robbie.

I won't lie. Despite being guided by Tety, the fitness instructor, these machines are tough taskmasters. Think of a wooden frame akin to a torture rack, with a set of springs that provide resistance as the platform moves. Add on a foot bar, long straps for legs and arms, and we are soon efficiently swishing and swooshing, our abs and glutes wincing in protest.

Mind you, if I could afford the £6,000 price tag I wouldn't hesitate to buy a Reformer, because the next day we both feel lean and mean and ready to hike. This we do, albeit in a gentle way, with a stomp to pretty Spartia where the local café with its sugary Greek coffee and sweet treats swiftly undoes our newly honed physiques.

We putter back to base and reward ourselves with a massage. Eventually there will be two treatment rooms, but for now guests can have tired muscles pummelled in the privacy of their villas. The masseuse, Anthi, is excellent, and as a spa junkie I don't say that lightly. Her deep-tissue massage, accompanied by woo-woo music and birdsong from outside, soon has me drifting off in a snooze.

Snooze-inducing, too, is our visit to the nearby Gentilini winery, where in an arcadian grove we settle at a picnic bench, working our way through some delicious local robola wines, accompanied by a platter of cheeses, dried meats, olive oil and homemade bread.

Even better, there's an endearing cat that settles happily on my lap while we sniff and slurp. It's my idea of animal perfection — that is, until we spy a flock of goats nibbling the grass in a shady meadow. Oh, how I long to rush up, peer at their teeth and check for gold.

Bleat bleat, they cry; the goaty equivalent of "keep away", I presume. I snap a few photos, move a bit closer — then along comes a shepherd, and his stern look makes me lose heart.

Instead, I'll stay with the myth: Cephalonian goats, like the island itself, are indeed a gilded treasure.

Need to know

Louise Roddon was a guest of Eliamos Villas Hotel & Spa (eliamos.com), which has B&B villas for two from £384. Fly to Cephalonia

Three more Greek island hideaways

Cotommatae 1810, Hydra
This exquisitely preserved mansion was acquired by the ship owner and merchant Dimosthenes Kotommatis in the early 19th century, and it's been in the same family ever since. Expect lashings of period charm (carved or wood-beam ceilings and antique furniture), and a choice between enormous ground-floor bolt holes with galleried bedrooms or romantic hideaways with private patios. The hotel is beautifully positioned in the heart of Hydra port, and a serious plus point is its late-running breakfast. Slugabeds have until noon to gorge on local bread and honey, homemade yoghurt and feta cheese and spinach pies.
Details B&B doubles from £173 (cotommatae.gr). Fly to Athens, then take a ferry

Arosmari Village Hotel, Crete
Set in the mountain village of Vamos in western Crete, Arosmari Village Hotel comprises a cluster of fabulous stone and cypress-wood cottages around a dreamy garden. Roses and lavender bushes mix with a tiny chapel, the former communal village oven and an ancient shepherd's hut. Breakfasts are truly memorable; there's also a huge pool and secret spots where calico loungers come shaded by lemon and orange trees. The hotel has been in the family of its current owner, Nikos Fragiadarkis, for generations; he organises concerts and recitals in the hotel's mini amphitheatre during summer months.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £1,466pp, including flights and car hire (simpsontravel.com)

Hotel Aristide, Syros
Owned by the sisters Oana and Jasmin Aristide, this nine-bedroom hotel is pure eye candy. Dramatic contemporary art and highly original statement fittings mix bold colour schemes and elegant period detailing in this former sea merchant's townhouse. The suites are enormously grand. Bathrooms are veritable head-turners, and some rooms come with private plunge pools and large patios. You can expect knockout cocktails in the bar, excellent regional cuisine on the rooftop terrace, and an imaginative range of activities that help you get under the skin of this refreshingly unsung workaday Cycladic island.
Details B&B doubles from £312; minimum two-night booking (hotelaristide.com). Fly to Syros


Arosmari Village Hotel



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From Los Angeles to Cowes: the

The producer of the hit TV comedy Schitt's Creek has opened a hotel in a Georgian townhouse with his film agent wife. Susan d'Arcy gets a piece of the action



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Schitt's Creek is the award-winning TV comedy about a family of bankrupt millionaires forced to live in a backwater Canadian motel so run down it would be unwise to try to identify its signature scent. After six seasons learning how not to do it, the producer Peter Sussman, who was one of the driving forces behind the show, was perfectly placed to open his own hotel, obviously.

That's not the only unlikely plot point of this story. It also involves Sussman abandoning the glamour of Los Angeles for the bright lights of…the Isle of Wight. Sussman's Irish wife, Sara Curran, a film and TV agent, lived in Cowes, the island's yachtie hotspot, with her daughter when the couple met in 2013. For the first seven years of their relationship, Sussman maintained a Californian base and they co-ordinated busy schedules to rendezvous in various transatlantic cities. This added up to 200 nights a year in hotels, which is, arguably, a pretty good hospitality apprenticeship (their favourites include the Four Seasons Maui, where *The White Lotus* was filmed, Soho Beach House Miami, and the Pig hotels in the UK).

In 2020 they decided to sit out lockdown on the south coast and as Sussman fell for the charms of the Solent, Zoom meetings replaced power breakfasts, cutting out the necessity for nonstop travel. As a result, the island became their full-time home and the bar at the North House hotel part of their social circuit. When it came up for sale, they didn't hesitate. After all, Curran did have some relevant luxury hotel experience; she'd worked on the BBC series *The Night Manager*.

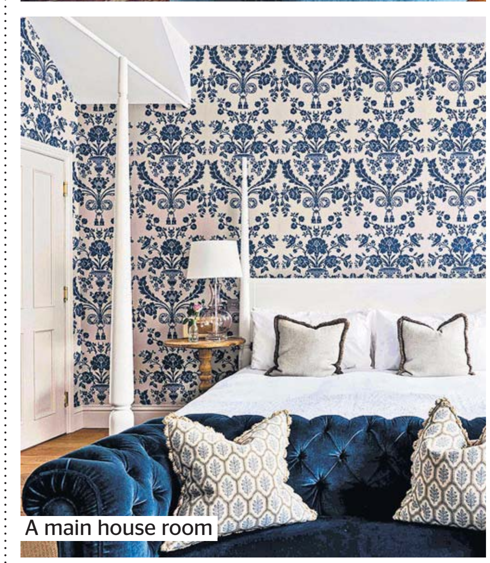
Curran and Sussman have now revamped the property, which sits in pride of place on the movie-set-cute slope of Sun Hill in Cowes's old town conservation area, and renamed it Foresters Hall in a nod to the building's roots. The grade II listed Georgian townhouse was constructed in 1865 as a meeting place for the Ancient Order of Foresters and later morphed into a venue for concerts and balls. The street remains a great location, close to browsable shops such as the lifestyle store Staples & Green (staplesandgreen.co.uk) and Cowes Gallery (aalondongallery.com) and within a skip of the Parade for bracing walks to Gurnard Beach. The island's main draw, Osborne House, Queen Victoria's summer home in East Cowes, is also nearby (£20; english-heritage.org.uk).

Fortunately, it's a smiling Sara rather than a snarling Stevie who greets me on arrival at the hotel, and as you'd expect from media veterans, she puts on a show from the opening credits. As I head to reception, I get a peek of the cosy bar, which is rather Pig-like with low-slung armchairs in blush pink, sky blue and corn gold velvets, retro lampstands and a roaring fire. Only later when I order a drink there do I see the big reveal: an upright piano squished behind the door, the sheet music for *Fly Me to the Moon* ready to go.



Through the French windows in the lobby area, I spot clickbait Tiffany blue Foffa bikes propped up in a garden rack, providing stylish encouragement to explore. For further incentive they're free to borrow. During check-in, I get a glimpse of the laid-back restaurant where the duo have pulled off a masterstroke by collaborating with two of the island's most popular restaurateurs, Giancarlo Giancovich and Cinzia Reckitt of the Smoking Lobster group. Together they opened the Brasserie by Smoking Lobster this month. I enjoy my dinner of beetroot carpaccio (£10) and


The bar


A main house room

Isle of Wight's hottest new hotel

ALAMY







Dinner at the Brasserie

seafood tagliatelle (£29) and as the chef is also a licensed fisherman, my lobster and crab is suitably fresh. My only disappointment is that the weather isn't warm enough for eating on the south-facing terrace to soak up a side order of harbour views.

Given their cinematic background, it is unsurprising that the art Curran and Sussman have chosen is impressive. One of the pieces on show is an eye-catching work by Alex Katz, America's answer to David Hockney, from their own collection. The loos aren't forgotten either. There's an Annie Leibovitz portrait of Bruce Springsteen in the ladies and a photograph of Sussman meeting Barack Obama in the gents. They commissioned *The Diver*, a mind-bending mural by the international artists 3D Joe and Max, whose CV includes Disney and Google, to add interest to the wall of the dinky heated outdoor pool.

The 15 bedrooms are full-throttle boutique, with bold colours and flamboyant wallpapers. Some have free-standing baths at the end of the bed and the smart bathrooms have GHD hairdryers and straighteners and Cowshed products. For extra romance, rooms one and three have working fireplaces. If you don't mind surrendering a sea view for a historic one, room eight has some of the original signage in its bathroom. But if you need bobbing boats, rooms 12 and 14 have Juliet balconies that overlook the harbour.

Foresters Hall is the polar opposite of the *Schitt's Creek* motel in all but one respect — it's bound to be a hit too.

Need to know

Susan d'Arcy was a guest of Foresters Hall, which has B&B doubles from £295 (foresters hall.com), and Wightlink (wightlink.co.uk), which has ferries from Lymington to Yarmouth from £73 for a car and up to seven passengers

The cool guide to the Isle of Wight

ALEXANDER PARNELL



The Hut, Colwell Bay

Where to stay

The Hambrough, Ventnor
Essentially a posh restaurant with rooms at the southernmost tip of the island, this hotel's best rooms — all smart white numbers — have elevated views of the beach. The restaurant does gutsy dishes such as halibut with braised white asparagus (mains from £21) and there's a "secret" cocktail garden.
Details B&B doubles from £150 (thehambrough.com)

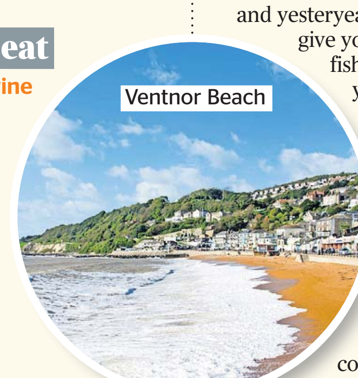
Sentry Mead, Totland Bay
The bones of this Arts and Crafts mansion are Tudorbethan timber frames and turrets. Inside, the nine rooms have been recently revamped and decorated in moody marine colours. There's an honesty bar and lounge, while its dog-friendly ethos is matched by direct access to walking paths.
Details B&B doubles from £200 (sentrymead.co.uk)

Into the Woods, Whippingham
Snuggled in beautiful farmland behind Osborne House and close to the ferry ports, Into the Woods is a unique collection of treehouses and shepherd's huts (with a hot tub) imagined and built by the owners among hazel and oak trees. All have big beds, cool bathrooms and kitchens. Barbecues and bikes are available to hire.
Details One night's self-catering for two from £140; minimum two-night stay (isleofwighttreehouse.com)

Tiny Homes Holidays, nr Cowes
The lifestyle pedigree of these six architect-designed off-grid cabins is strong; its founders were also the IoW's early glamping pioneers Vintage Vacations. All these cute cabins share an outdoor kitchen with a pizza oven; there's also a wood-fired sauna and hot tub.
Details One night's self-catering for four from £105 (tinyhomesholidays.com)

Where to eat

Fab food and wine in Ventnor
The best spot to watch the waves off Ventnor is from the Terrace Rooms & Wine (plates from £10; dinner and B&B from £200; theterrace ventnor.co.uk). It specialises in charcuterie and cheese with a glass or two from its 500-bottle wine cellar. The pan-Asian Drunken Lobster doesn't have the views but does have inventive saké cocktails and tempting bites such as tempura king prawn and char siu monkfish tacos (plates from £12; drunken lobster.co.uk).



Ventnor Beach

The Hut, Colwell Bay
From the deck of this whitewashed restaurant on a sunny day it really can feel more like the Med than the home counties. Dishes celebrate the sea, so try the fish soup, the soft-shell crab and lobster, and do wear stripes, shorts and deck shoes to fit in. Many diners arrive by boat. It's a popular spot, so book ahead (mains from £22; thehutcolwell.co.uk).

Fish, chips and pubs in Yarmouth
Yarmouth is all quaint waterfront and yesteryear alleyways that give you a yearning for fish and chips. Get yours from Salty's, where the beer-battered haddock comes with tartare sauce, minted mushy peas and charred lemon (mains from £17; saltysrestaurant.co.uk). A ramble along the Western Yar Estuary Walk will build up an appetite for the Red Lion in Freshwater (mains from £13; redlion-freshwater.co.uk), mentioned in this year's *Michelin Guide* for its superior pub grub.

Harvey Browns, Arreton Valley
This fourth-generation farm in the Arreton Valley now has a top-notch brunch café, serving the likes of farm-grown asparagus with crispy egg and pesto, plus a brilliant farm shop (mains from £12; harveybrowns.co.uk).

Thompson's, Newport
Robert Thompson, the head chef at the Forester's, started out here, and it's still one of the island's most popular, with a menu that showcases local produce, such as slow-cooked pork cheeks with sautéed tiger prawn, watercress puree and bacon dashi (mains from £21; robertthompson.co.uk).

What to do

Binnel Studios
This former glassworks became a collection of artists' studios in 2014. Current artists include the ceramicists Matthew Chambers and Sue Paraskeva, and the painter Amanda Wheeler. Its summer exhibition takes place in August, but the studios are also open by appointment (binnelstudios.com).

Surfing lessons
You can catch a decent wave all around the south coast of the island, and iSurf will teach you how. Book a beginner's lesson with this mobile surf school and they'll take you to the best waves that day (from £30pp; iowsurf.com).
Sarah Turner

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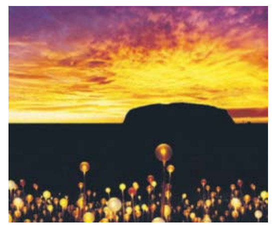
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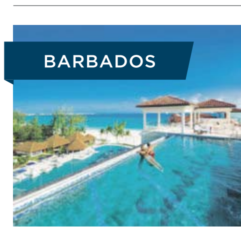


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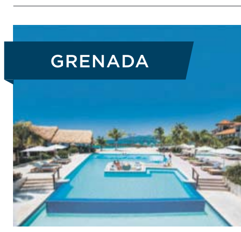


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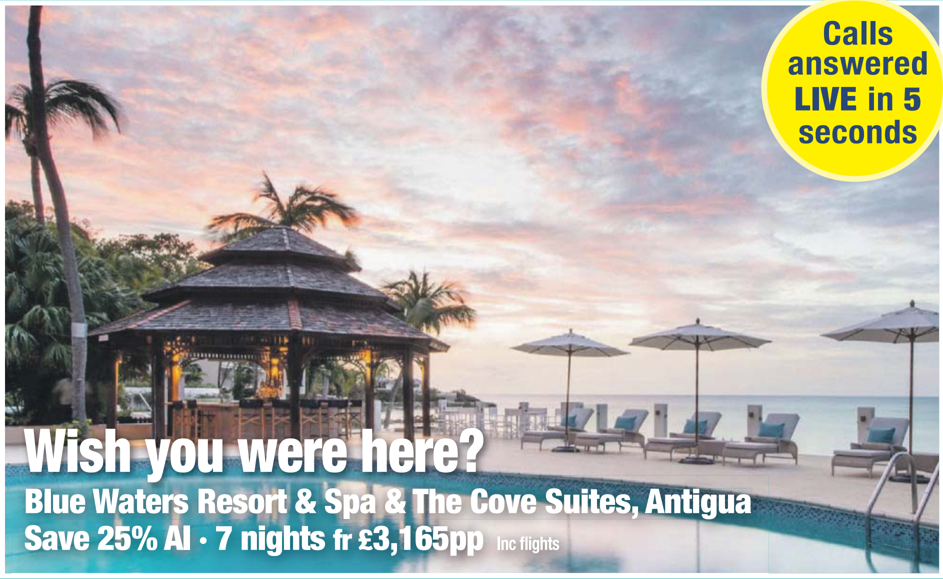
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With views over Ha My Beach, Nam Hai is close to the charming town of Hoi An with its colourful markets. There are 8 sumptuous and secluded treatment pavilions in the spa, and yoga and meditation sessions are held every day.

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Save 10% at 5* Amirandes Grecotel

Set within extensive landscaped grounds on the north coast, Amirandes Grecotel exclusive resort is perfect for a relaxing getaway, with its 3 sandy beaches, indoor and outdoor pools, excellent dining and the Alchemy Spa which offers a selection of signature treatments using organic plants.

7 nights fr £999pp Inc flights

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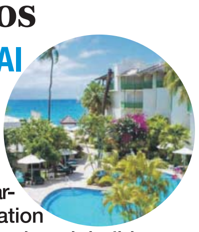
Located on a secluded area of Patong Beach overlooking beautiful turquoise waters, the thoughtfully designed Amari Phuket feels like a slice of paradise. Relax in spacious accommodation based around a traditional Thai home, complete with a kaleidoscope of culinary experiences as each restaurant has a beachside view, swimming pools and stunning spa.

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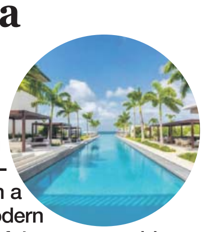


Discover an idyllic spot on Barbados' Gold Coast and be treated to the marvellous combination of an all-inclusive beach holiday paired with the delightful boutique 4* Mango Bay Hotel.

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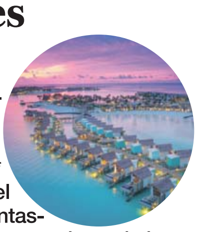


The elegant luxurious 5* Cap Maison sits in a stunningly beautiful location with its own secluded sandy beach and offers incredible dining options at The Cliff at Cap & The Naked Fisherman restaurants.

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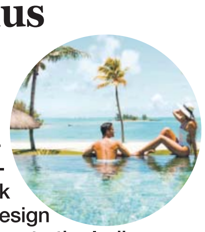


For a wild & wonderful escape with friends or loved ones, the 5* Hard Rock Hotel Maldives is a fantastic option. As expected, music is king here with the added benefit of beachfront luxury.

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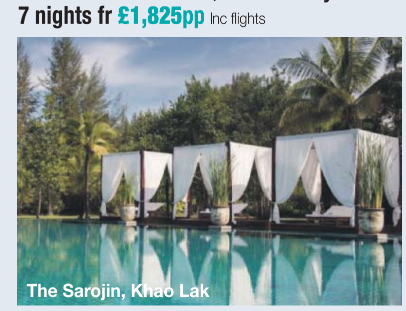
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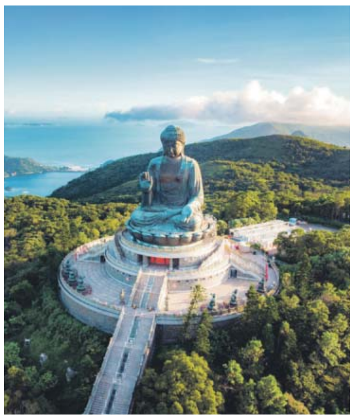
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Late deals: grab a bargain trip

Hike in Spain or Morocco, scout for film locations in Rome or stick closer to home in Devon

UK

Take Fido and the children to Devon
May half-term breaks are being discounted by 10 per cent at Byron at Woolacombe Bay. Precisely four minutes' walk from the three-mile sandy surfing beach in north Devon, this complex has a good range of facilities — heated indoor pool, games room, spa treatment room, casual restaurant — alongside contemporary apartments and penthouses with sea views from their terraces or balconies. Many are dog-friendly. Beginning on May 27, seven nights' self-catering for four now starts at £1,440 (byronwoolacombeholidaylets.co.uk).

Rural Essex relaxation
A sustainable B&B with hotel-like facilities, Piglets has an eco-friendly swimming pond, games room, croquet lawn, infrared sauna and gin-filled honesty bar alongside its five sizeable bedrooms. Locally sourced dinners are served — just the job after you've walked or cycled across handsome countryside to Saffron Walden's medieval buildings. From tomorrow until June 15 (excluding the bank holiday) and exclusively for Times readers, two nights' B&B between Sundays and Thursdays is reduced by about a fifth to £164pp, including a free sauna session. Quote SATTIMES23 (piglets.co.uk).

Cotswolds farm stay
More than 50 animal species reside at Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, ranging from greedy goats to stately Suffolk horses. Visiting children can help to feed lambs before hitting the huge outdoor playground. Anyone staying here in the six private luxury self-catering lodges, half of which have outdoor hot tubs, gets unlimited access. And, using the code CFPHOLIDAYS, every third night is free. Start a trip on June 2 and three nights' self-catering for four in a lodge costs from £870 (cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk).

Magical half-term at Butlin's, Somerset
The magician and TV presenter Stephen Mulhern will perform at Butlin's Minehead resort during May half-term week. Overlooking a sandy Somerset beach and close to Exmoor National Park's trails and a steam-pulled heritage railway, the estate has a swimming pool and a vintage fairground featuring dodgems. Open-plan, colourful Comfort Plus apartments with patios or balconies still have half-term availability; beginning on May 26, seven nights' self-catering for four costs from £1,308, including all evening shows and rides (butlins.com).

EUROPE

Explore Madeira
The Enotel Lido is just a ten-minute drive from the old centre of Funchal, Madeira's capital, where dolphin-spotting cruises depart. Guests can also join this Portuguese island's main ring road, bound for lush mountain hikes or wine estates. All of which depends on you resisting the pull of this seaside resort's four restaurants, floatation pool and spa. Saving 15 per cent, seven nights' all-inclusive costs from £887pp, including flights and transfers, if booked by May 30 (bluebaytravel.co.uk).

Go set-jetting in Rome
Rome was one of the filming locations for the action movie *Fast X*, which opened in cinemas yesterday. At one point Dom (Vin Diesel) races by the Colosseum while Dante (Jason Momoa) admires a Vatican explosion from the Belvedere del Gianicolo viewpoint. Should that inspire a set-jetting break to the Eternal City, aim for the classy Starhotels Michelangelo — its marble floors house an Eataly restaurant and great deals are available. Departing in June, three nights' B&B costs from £784pp, including flights and private transfers (citalia.com).

Dalmatian Coast sailing tour
Travelling from Split to Dubrovnik via Hvar, Brac and the Elafiti Islands, small-group tours aboard a skippered 50ft yacht are popular with solo travellers. Guided hikes or tours to picturesque ruins await at some island stops, while others — such as the chevron-shaped Zlatni Rat beach — are solely reserved for swimming. Taking part in the sailing is optional. Departing on June 24 and discounted by a third, seven nights' room-only costs from £1,138pp including activities; you're also expected to contribute €100 (£87) to a breakfast and lunch kitty (theadventurepeople.com). Fly to Split.

BALATE DORIN/GETTY IMAGES





Koutoubia mosque and garden, Marrakesh. Below: Piglets, Essex

Beaches and hiking in Andalucia
North of this spot are vast, bird-rich wetlands crossed by hiking trails and a disused railway turned cycling path. Immediately east sprawls the boat-dotted Carreras estuary; just four miles west begins Portugal. And 100m south is a fudge-coloured sandy beach. Suffice to say that Andalusia's Melia Atlantico Isla Canela is well situated. Behind its pavilionesque façade, the facilities extend from tennis courts to a free-form pool and bikes to borrow. Departing on May 30, seven nights' half-board costs from £647pp, including flights and transfers (tui.co.uk).

MID & LONG-HAUL

Luxury Mekong cruise
Sailing from Vietnam into Cambodia on Scenic's upmarket Mekong cruise, guests stay in balcony suites attended by butlers. Every meal is included, with four restaurants to choose from, as are your preferred daily activities — be it visiting floating markets or touring Phnom Penh after dark. Book before June 29 to also enjoy complimentary transfers from your home, plus savings up to £1,407pp. Departing on October 29, for instance, seven nights' full board now costs from £3,401pp including flights, drinks, tips and wi-fi (scenic.co.uk).

Climb Toubkal in Morocco
There's no feeling like the triumph of scaling a mountain. After exploring Marrakesh and its rabbit-warren shopping souks, this group tour will ascend north Africa's highest peak, the 4,167m Jebel Toubkal. Following a lesser-trodden route via waterfalls and juniper forest alongside Berber guides and a mule train, you'll sleep in dormitory-style huts and watch the sunrise over the Sahara. Good fitness is required. Reduced by 20 per cent, spaces on tours departing on June 1, 15 or 22 cost from £324pp, including all meals and transfers (muchbetteradventures.com). Fly to Marrakesh.

Jamaican jaunt
A time-honoured tradition, Sandals' annual sale discounts seven-night stays at any of its couples-only Caribbean resorts by up to £200. Bookings must be made before June 20, quoting "SALE" when prompted. Among this year's options is Sandals Dunn's River, which reopens this Wednesday on Jamaica's north coast after wholesale renovations. Close to the jungly Dunn's River Falls, the beachside resort in Ocho Rios has 12 restaurants, golf course access and unlimited watersports. Seven nights' all-inclusive in July costs from £2,980pp, including flights and transfers (sandals.co.uk).

Bali private tour
A private itinerary around southern Bali showcases overlooked elements of this Indonesian island, such as beautiful forest trails, rice terraces and traditional villages. Optional activities — walking around Ubud, white-water rafting — and free time are both laid on, as are a cooking class, an indulgent spa day and a catamaran trip to Nusa Lembongan's blissful bays. Twenty-five per cent cheaper until June 30, ten nights' B&B now costs from £1,315pp, including transfers and excursions if you travel between September 16 and December 20 (fleewinter.com). Fly to Denpasar.

Richard Mellor

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Isles of Scilly, Cornwall



Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis

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Day 3 **Fishguard, Wales**
A short drive away is the UK's smallest city, St Davids. More a village than a city, it owes its city status to its 12th century cathedral. You can explore this conservation area as part of an included excursion

Day 4 **Belfast, Northern Ireland**
Sail into Belfast, a city with a proud seafaring history and the birthplace of the Titanic. History buffs will enjoy Ulster Museum and Belfast Castle, while nature lovers can visit the Botanic Garden

Day 5 **Castlebay, Outer Hebrides, Scotland**
★**Captain's choice**★
Today, the Captain and the Expedition Team will decide whether to explore Barra or Vatersay, the two most southerly inhabited islands of the Outer Hebrides, linked to each other by a causeway. Go in search of birds and sea life in expedition boats or attempt to land in the innumerable coves and beaches that dot the islands close to Castlebay

Day 6 **Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland**
Visit the regal St Magnus Cathedral, made from distinctive local red sandstone, and the adjacent Earl's Palace to see the stone ruins of this once-grand Renaissance building. The Neolithic settlement of Scara Brae is also only a bus ride away

Day 7 **Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland**
As you explore the area around the harbour, keep an eye out for seals, eagles and otters. Enjoy a visit to the Gothic-style Lews Castle with its spacious grounds full of trails and offering fantastic views

Day 8 **Islay, Scotland**
Offering a diverse landscape, together with ancient Celtic ruins, Islay is a stop-off for migrating birds, making it ideal for seabird spotting along its many superb cliff-top walk

Day 9 **Douglas, Isle of Man**
The scenic approach to Douglas is not to be missed! Head ashore to explore the capital of the Isle of Man. Learn about the island's Celtic and Viking heritage, trace its development as a Victorian tourist resort, and see its stunning rugged coastline

Day 10 **Waterford, Ireland**
Visit the nearby 12th century Kilkenny Castle, stroll through quaint villages and charming hamlet towns nearby or take in the beautiful surrounding scenery

Day 11 **Isles of Scilly, England**
Today, join one of the optional excursions× for a trip around the islands, visiting shipwreck sites, spotting seals basking on the rocks and cruising around the bird sanctuary of Annet to observe the puffins and numerous other breeding seabirds

Day 12 **Dartmouth, Devon**
The picturesque banks of the River Dart mark your arrival into beautiful Dartmouth. Steeped in maritime history and culture, this charming town is home to the Royal Britannia Naval College and Dartmouth Castle. Tread the coastal paths and trails that extend along this stretch of coastline, exploring secluded coves and remote beaches

Day 13 **Arrive in Dover**

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- **DAY 2... Lima, Peru** Enjoy a day at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

- **DAY 3... Lima, Peru - Gastronomic Experience** You will be picked up from your hotel to go to the district of Surquillo where you can experience an authentic local market, before heading to the Aliaga House, an ancient viceregal construction delivered by Francisco Pizarro to one of his captains (Jerónimo de Aliaga) when he founded the city.

You will then head to the Main Square, where the "City of the Kings" was founded in 1535, From there you can see the Presidential Palace, the Archbishopric and the Cathedral of Lima. Finally, You will be transferred to a local restaurant to have a demonstration of pisco sour preparation and lunch.

- **DAY 4... Lima to Cusco - Half Day Cusco City Tour** After your flight to Cusco, today you will experience the "Temple of the Sun'. This is when the Sun was worshipped during the Inca Empire and at the time of the Incas it's walls were fully covered with gold sheets.

Continue to Sacsayhuamán, a magnificent monument conceived and built by Inca Pachacútec in the 15th century, before visiting the Cathedral, the most impressive building on the main square.

- **DAY 5... Cusco - Sacred Valley - Aguas Calientes** You will begin your tour with a visit to the Pisac market, where you will find textiles, carvings, and replicas of ancient Inca pieces. Enjoy lunch at the Wayra Ranch, where you will enjoy stunning equestrian demonstrations, to the rhythm of marinera music.

Finally head for the Ollantaytambo citadel, a picturesque Andean town which maintains the urban planning of the Incas, before board the Vistadome train to Aguas Calientes.

- **DAY 6... Machu Picchu** Visit the 'Lost City of the Incas', which is believed to have been built in the 1450s by Inca emperor Pachacuti as a holiday retreat, yet within a century the city would be abandoned following the Spanish conquest. The Spaniards never found it, so it was spared the destruction they brought on other Inca sites. Instead, it was slowly swallowed up by the jungle and hidden from harm.

A guided tour will explain the origins behind this awe-inspiring citadel, presenting its most prominent landmarks. Enjoy a buffet lunch at The Sanctuary Lodge - a Belmond Hotel, Tinkuy restaurant.

- **DAY 7... Aguas Calientes - Cusco - Lima** Enjoy your morning at leisure, before taking the Vistadome train back to Ollanta Station. Upon arrival you will transfer to Cusco Airport for your onward flight to Lima. On arrival in Lima, you will transfer to your hotel for a 1 night stay.

- **DAY 8... Lima, Peru** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, before transferring to the port to embark Silver Nova for your 16 Night Panama Canal Voyage.

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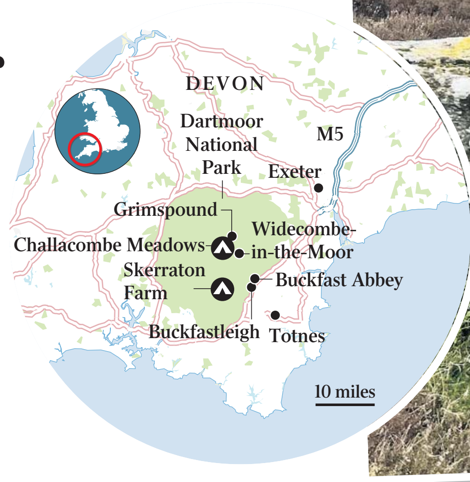
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Our (almost) wild camping adventure on Dartmoor

Gemma Bowes tries a new service renting out 4x4 vehicles with rooftop tents for stays on farmers' land




Gemma's son Hamish, seven, on Dartmoor



GEMMA BOWES; ALAMY



Gemma's daughter Heidi, nine, by Cherry Belle



Widecombe-in-the-Moor

I hate to say it, but there's something about driving a 4x4 down a narrow country lane that appears to command respect. My family and I are chuntering through Devon between undulating high hedges around the southern fringes of Dartmoor and I swear drivers pull in — right in — and wait for us to pass far more often than when we're driving our usual VW estate.

Perhaps they're just worried about their paintwork. Or perhaps they think we're real, respectable local farmers, I ponder, until I remember there's a bit of a giveaway up top. No hay bales or a trussed-up hog, just a large flat box containing our very slick and swanky rooftop tent. Possibly they're just intrigued. The car — a red Land Rover 110 TD5 Camper named Cherry Belle — is also brazenly branded with the logo of our Somerset hire company, Defender Campers, from whose Taunton base we've set off on a mini, but hopefully also quite massive, adventure.

The company has been renting three vehicles for the past few years, to adventurers bound for campsites in the southwest, the Lakes, even Ireland. Now, in a happy marriage of innovative travel concepts, it has partnered with the web platform Wild With Consent (as have a few other campervan rental companies).

The website launched in 2021 (at first only in Northumberland), listing attractive wild-feeling pitches for campervans and motorhomes on private land — usually farmers' fields — available for a small fee. There are usually no facilities and only one group can book a pitch at a time, so you get the isolation and immersion in nature of wild camping, without the fear of being chased with pitchforks.

I think of myself as a wild camping sort of person, but have somehow never got round to actually doing it. Working out where's allowed and suitable and carrying all your stuff there seems a bit of a faff, especially with two young children. But this website takes the stress and effort out of it (or nearly so), and now by connecting with camper rental companies and creating short tour itineraries, it's made it irresistibly easy. Wild camping for beginners. Or dummies. I'm not sure which yet.

By the time we reach Devon we've mastered the special half-salute Defender drivers give each other (akin to the VW camper finger-and-thumb-out hand wiggle), if not the grunty acceleration and tractor-esque gear stick. We're not exactly overlanding, as in South Africa where 4x4 rooftop camping was conceived — we renters are not even insured to drive off-road — but as we descend into a flooded lane and simply charge through, puddle spraying up the sides like on a log flume, much to the children's delight, I have to admit they're mighty handy in these parts (even if back in London I'm a hater of monstrous, Ulez-defying Chelsea tractors).

Our first stop for the night is Skerraton Farm near Buckfastleigh, a cattle farm so close to the edge of Dartmoor that a great swathe of the moor belongs to the farm. Wild With Consent has locations all over the country now, with Exmoor a popular choice for Defender Campers renters, but we've opted for the Dartmoor route as an alternative, and definitely legal way to experience wild camping there.

Traditionally the only place in England where it has been considered "allowed", Dartmoor wild camping attracted controversy last year when the landowner Alexander Darwell took the park authority to court, challenging a longstanding assumption that a right to wild camp existed. He won the case, though the verdict is set for appeal. In truth, most Dartmoor landowners continue to allow wild camping, and say the problem was never with proper campers, who are considerate, but those hosting parties and leaving trash.

We need not worry about that, however, as we follow handwritten WWC (Wild With Consent) signs off a lane into one of Skerraton's fields, a lovely sloping green roller edged by clamberable rocks and trees, with views all the way to Totnes and the sea. And we have it all to ourselves.

After making several circuits to decide upon the flattest spot, we push open the rooftop box (a top-of-the-market bit of kit from iKamper), pull down the ladder to tug out the sleeping platform with tent already attached, pop in two small poles and — ta-dah, in under a minute we're ready for bed.

First, I cook while my partner pulls out and secures the fancy awning, also ready-attached to the roof, and the kids run free in the long grass. A gas stove fits on a kitchen shelf that flaps down from the rear door; implements are arranged with a Marie Kondo touch in neat drawers. Everything we could need is supplied — even a fridge, stocked with bits from a Somerset butcher, and a tap with (non-potable) water.

It's too late to hike up onto the glorious moorland, but when the farmer, Deborah Treneer, appears to deliver drinking water we take up her offer of a sunset ride up there on her mucky ATV, passing her herd of red ruby cattle to reach golden hilltops from where we can see for miles, and the Avon Dam, near where you can swim.

We sleep four abreast — they say it's big enough for five — perfectly comfortably aside from a few ladder descents for wild wees. No toilets is the catch. We've been given a brand-new portable potty loo, along with a dubious roll of black bags, but some farms provide a loo, and you can always stop at a pub or garage.

The tent and awning pack away quickly, then we're off, stopping at Buckfast Abbey to marvel at the incredible stained glass and spy on Benedictine monks coming out of a service — giving thanks I'm sure for bagging such a stunning spot — and buying a bottle of Buckie as a joke for a friend who used to get wasted on the vicious tonic wine at uni. They also have loos, which is a bonus.

As we drive up onto Dartmoor proper, there are frequent signs forbidding overnight stays in laybys and car parks, bringing home how useful the WWC scheme is. On a moorland hike to the ancient Bronze Age settlement of Grimspound we see real wild campers too, hefting elephantine rucksacks. Skipping lightly between the colossal tors, I can't say I envy them.

Sunshine rampages, newts skitter in peaty streams, gorse bushes burst into egg-yolk yellow abundance, and after a few hours we arrive at a perfect pub, the Rugglestone Inn in Widecombe-in-the-Moor, where folk musicians are whirling up an atmosphere in a beer garden full of families and Devonshire hippies. A pint of Thirsty Blonde, on-point fish and chips: bliss (mains £15; rugglestoneinn.co.uk).

That night's camp is at nearby Challacombe Meadows, another sublimely situated piece of seclusion at the foot of a hill overlooking the organic sheep and cattle farm's regenerated marshes and rare wildflower meadows. Our host, Mark Owen, speaks fascinatingly about his drive to improve farmland rather than bleed it dry, taking us to meet his Icelandic/Shetland-cross sheep whose beautiful sheepskins (and meat) you can buy here too. "I personally don't mind wild campers, I've done it enough times myself," he says, "but we're very keen on public access and this is a way for people to enjoy the farm."

Sitting by the campfire all by our starlit selves, waking to the freshness of a dewy field, putting on coffee while the kids yawn down the ladder to run barefoot into the wild, then moving on, feels as uplifting an overlanding experience as you might get anywhere. Addictively wholesome, in fact, a gateway drug to wild camping proper, perhaps — next time a tent, later a bivvy, then . . . Africa? For now, though, the comfort of sleeping up on the rooftop in the southwest suits us down to the ground.

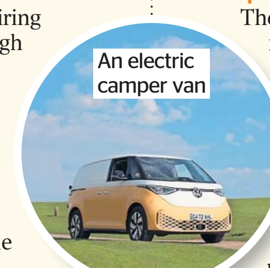
Need to know

Gemma Bowes was a guest of Wild With Consent, which has one night's camping only for £45 or two nights' camping including Defender Campers (defendercampers.com) hire from £270 (wildwithconsent.com)

More ways to go wild in the UK

Nearly wild campsites
Wild camping is only allowed in the UK in Scotland (though not in vehicles without the landowner's permission). Tent camping is still accepted in some parts of Dartmoor, and has a long tradition of tolerance in the Lake District, especially on National Trust land if strict guidelines are adhered to (see nationaltrust.org.uk). Dozens of campsites across the country create experiences approximating wild camping — for a fee — with well-dispersed pitches in untamed natural settings. Beech Estate in East Sussex is one, offering 50 off-grid pitches in a 600-acre wood near Battle (one night's camping from £48; pegsandpitches.co.uk). Nearly Wild Camping has collated 250 wilder-feeling spots, with a £24 annual membership to access the list (nearlywildcamping.org). Similar to Wild With Consent, Campspace (campspace.com) and HomeCamper (homecamper.com) list pitches on private land.

Campervanning
Try a greener form of campervanning by hiring an electric van through Wild Drives from its base in Brighton (one night from £130, wilddrives.co.uk). Other companies to try include Camplify (camplify.co.uk), Indie Campers (indiecampers.co.uk), Quirky Campers (quirkycampers.co.uk) and Go Boony (goboony.co.uk). Pick up the Brit Stops guide, which lists 1,100 places to park for the night, from pub car parks to vineyards (£39 per year; britstops.com).



An electric camper van

Rooftop camping
There's a wide range of rooftop tents available these days, to achieve that South African overlanding vibe. Decathlon rents them from five of its leading stores (three days from £125, £1,150 to buy; rentals.decathlon.co.uk).

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Enjoy a scenic coach tour to discover the key sights of the island and its coastline, complemented by a Breton gastronomy experience as you sample oysters with a glass of white wine at a famous restaurant

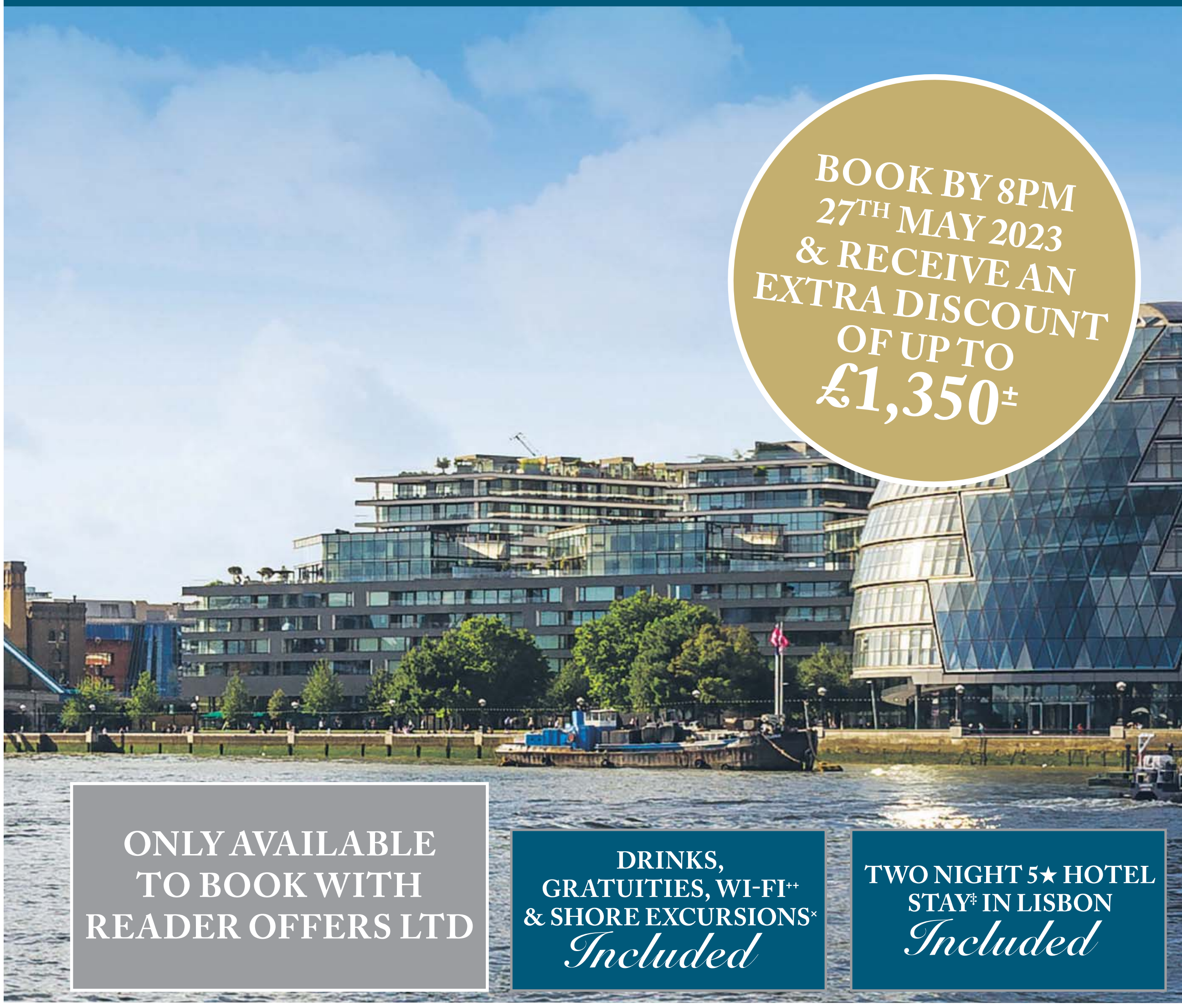


Quiberon, France (arrive late pm – depart late night)

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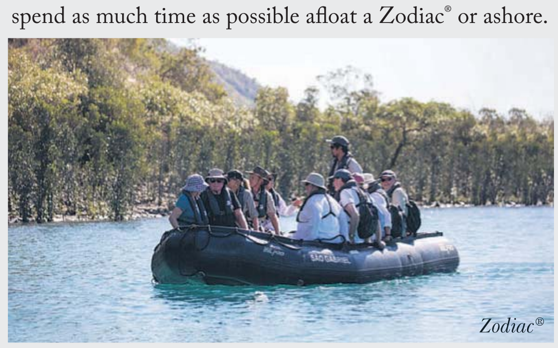
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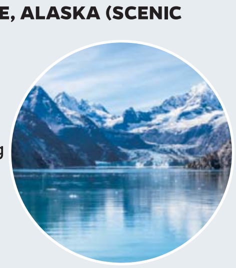
DAY 4: BANFF TO KAMLOOPS, CANADA
Travel on to Kamloops where you will stop for an overnight stay.
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DAY 5: KAMLOOPS TO VANCOUVER
On arrival into Vancouver, check in to your hotel for the night & spend the evening at your leisure. There are so many great places to eat out in Vancouver from Michelin Starred cuisine to small family-run restaurants serving locally sourced fresh seafood, so put your glad rags on & enjoy a beautiful dinner in downtown Vancouver. Breakfast Included

DAY 6: EMBARK 5★ KONINGSDAM

DAY 7: INSIDE PASSAGE, ALASKA (SCENIC CRUISING) Alaska's Inside Passage is the area that makes up the Southeast Region of Alaska, it was the centre of activity during Alaska's 19th century Gold Rush. Also known as the 'Panhandle'. the Inside Passage is popular for its spectacular scenery and wildlife.



DAY 8: TRACY ARM INLET, ALASKA
Endicott Arm is a narrow, 30-mile-long, fjord with one-fifth of its area covered in ice. Dawes Glacier is at the head of the fjord expelling magnificent chunks of ice, this process is called calving.

DAY 9: JUNEAU, ALASKA
This is where gold was discovered by Joe Juneau and Richard Harris in 1880. Whilst you are here, you can still pan for gold, visit abandoned mines, and you can also go whale watching. Don't be surprised to also see bald eagles, Dall's Porpoise, harbor seals, sea lions and the occasional black bear.

DAY 10: SKAGWAY, ALASKA
As you walk through parts of the city you'll feel like you are back in 1898 at the height of the Alaskan gold rush when the city was known as the 'Gateway to the Klondike'. The frontier-style storefronts of the saloons and bars along the rustic boardwalk date back to the late 19th century and form part of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

DAY 11: GLACIER BAY, ALASKA
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is a vast area of southeast Alaska's Inside Passage. Stretching north of the town of Gustavus, the bay is flanked by high peaks, including Mount Fairweather, and glaciers like the huge Grand Pacific Glacier.



DAY 12: KETCHIKAN, ALASKA
Salmon Capital of the World', you will be intrigued by rich Native heritage, which is on display at Totem Bight State Park and Saxman Native Village.



DAY 13: INSIDE PASSAGE, ALASKA (SCENIC CRUISING)
Shaped by the staggering force of glaciers millions of years ago, Alaska's Inside Passage is a habitat for bald eagles, sea lions, porpoises & whales and includes more than 1,000 islands.

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DAY 15: ARRIVE UK

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South Island road trip: the best way to see New Zealand — by car

ALAMY; JUSTIN PAGET/GETTY IMAGES



The Okarito lagoon

The journey from Christchurch to the West Coast is epic yet it can be done in just five days, says Ash Bhardwaj

Above the city of Christchurch, a ten-minute drive into the Port Hills, I was sitting with a coffee in the gardens of the Sign of the Kiwi café — a casual spot in a phenomenal setting — where a path runs along the rim of an ancient, ocean-filled volcanic caldera. On the other side, the front deck looks across the flat Canterbury Plains towards a wall of rock that stretches from horizon to horizon: the Southern Alps, one of the world's most dynamic mountain ranges. New Zealand is a place of stupendous landscapes, produced by gigantic forces, and this section of the South Island is perhaps its most dramatic.

I was about to set out on a road trip over the mountains and along the West Coast, a journey that I knew to be one of the country's most scenic but one that could be done in five days, and easily incorporated into any longer tour.

First I wanted to spend some time in Christchurch, the South Island's largest city, where I had lived 15 years ago while training as a ski instructor. This time I was with my wife, Dre, and our four-month-old daughter, Lyra, to revisit places I loved and see what had changed.

Much, it turned out. New artworks everywhere, cycle paths threading the city together, and a pedestrian zone along the Avon River (known in Maori as the Otakaro) were all signs of how the city is still in the process of being rebuilt after the 2011 earthquake which destroyed much of the centre. A statue of the British Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott was still standing, but the cathedral spire (which I had climbed when I lived there) was not.

We strolled along buzzing New Regent Street, a pedestrianised mall of Spanish mission-style buildings that has become symbolic of the city's recovery, eating blueberry and lemon cheesecake ice cream from Rollickin Gelato (rollickin.co.nz), then drinking pints of local Little Mighty IPA on the roof terrace of the nearby Craft Embassy (craftembassy.co.nz). Christchurch felt like a place where we could relax and while away the evenings, but we were excited to get on the road, into those mountains and beyond.

The next morning we picked up our hire car and headed 80 miles west to Arthur's Pass along one of just four roads that cross the Southern Alps, which stretch the length of the island and separated us from the wilderness of the West Coast.

April is autumn in New Zealand, which usually means clear weather, but it was drizzling as we left Christchurch and by the time we reached Castle Hill it had turned to snow. We stopped for lunch at Arthur's Pass Village, and to visit the thundering Devil's Punchbowl Falls, which are typical of the easily accessible micro-adventures in this part of New Zealand, with safe, well-maintained paths through otherwise challenging terrain.

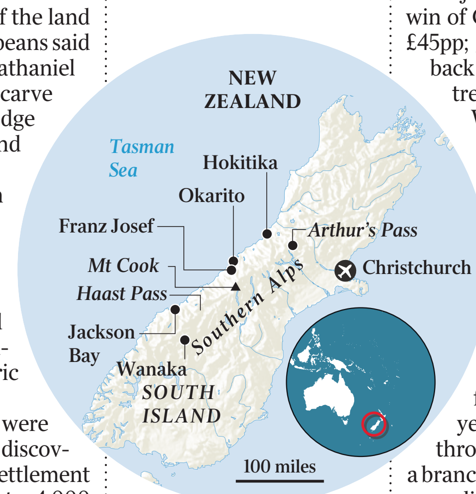
We arrived in Hokitika just before dusk. It sits on a thin strip of land squeezed between the Tasman Sea and the mountains, and boomed during the 19th century when prospectors came in search of gold. Downtown is full of two-storey wood buildings that would feel familiar to Californians. We wandered down to a beach covered in driftwood sculptures of mythical beasts — an enduring legacy of the annual Driftwood & Sand festival, held in January (driftwoodandsand.co.nz) — and picked up fish and chips from Dulcie's (from £4.40; dulcies.co.nz) to eat while watching the sky turn purple and pink as the sun dipped into the waves. Behind us the mountains blazed orange and red, and we could see all the way to Mount Cook (Aoraki), New Zealand's tallest mountain at 3,724m. As the sky darkened, constellations popped into the sky, with the Southern Cross pointing us in the direction we would be driving for the next five days.

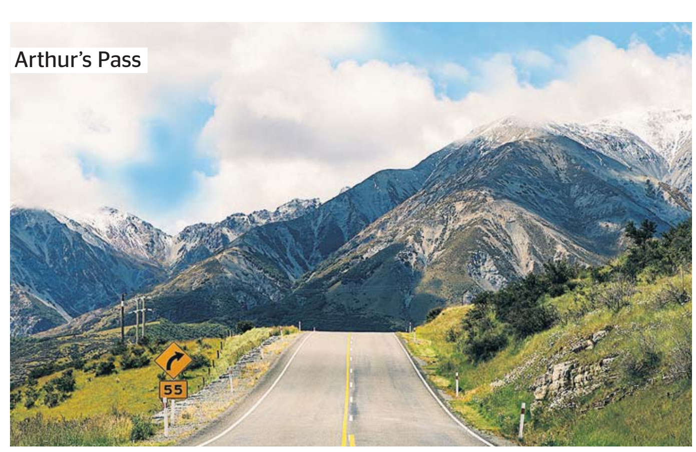
Typical of this creative town, our home for the night was in a converted fire station, one of several apartments decorated with antique ladders, nozzles and helmets (one night's self-catering for four from £100; hokitikafirestation.co.nz).

The same geology that formed gold in Hokitika gave rise to another mineral that was far more important to the Maori: pounamu. The South Island is the only place in the world where this greenstone, a type of serpentine or jade, is found, along rivers that carry it from the mountains. At Bonz N Stonz (bonz-n-stonz.co.nz), a jewellery-carving workshop, I met Nathaniel Scott, a Maori stone-carver of the iwi (tribe) Ngai Tahu, the trustees of the land where pounamu is found. "Europeans said we lived in the Stone Age," Nathaniel told me as he showed me how to carve a piece, "but our stone holds an edge better than metal; it doesn't bend and it doesn't break."

He explained that shapes in the contemporary jewellery echo its original uses. "Fish hooks, teething rings, tools to cut wood … It was the lethal edge on taiaha [fighting staffs] and mere [striking clubs], but pounamu has spiritual and esoteric importance to our people too."

European mineral pursuits were more avaricious. When gold was discovered further south in 1865, the settlement of Okarito grew from nothing to 4,000 people in just 18 months. A few years later it was deserted again. Today just 30 residents live in Okarito full-time, and all that remains of the gold rush is a wharf on the lagoon here, now a haven for wildlife.





Arthur's Pass

We joined a guided tour with Cliff Goodwin of Glacier Valley Eco Tours (half-day £45pp; glaciervalley.co.nz), helping to cut back invasive gorse and plant native trees to protect the precious habitat. We walked through the township and into the forested hills behind, where Cliff showed us mamaku, large tree ferns, and rimu, tall evergreens with branches clustered at the top like broccoli, growing on rocky terrain that was once the terminal moraine of a glacier.

As we climbed, the forest echoed with the calls of native fernbirds and bellbirds, whose yellow and blue plumage I glimpsed through the leaves. A fantail landed on a branch in front of me to perform a dance, spreading its white tail before whizzing off in pursuit of insects.

"European settlers introduced stoats and possums," Cliff said, "and our native birds are very vulnerable to them. Air-dropped poisons and baited traps target those predators, and had success. There's more birdsong than there was a few years ago, and I'm seeing riflemen and kakariki [species] for the first time in years."

After we had walked for an hour, the forest canopy cleared for a spectacular view of the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers streaming down from the peaks.

A 30-minute drive took us next to the township of Franz Josef and the old viewpoint from which I had hiked onto the glacier 15 years ago. Now we could not even see its terminal face. The glacier had retreated more than a mile and become too unstable to reach from the valley. The only way to walk on it now is to arrive by ▶

helicopter, so we booked a flight with HeliservicesNZ (£150pp; heliservices.nz).

After a safety briefing we climbed aboard and went soaring over the Waiho River before plunging into the steep-sided glacial valley where the great tongue of ice squeezed around rocks like a frozen river. At 2,500m above sea level the rotor blades slowed and we stepped onto a snowfield ringed by towering peaks. Walls of ice tumbled towards the gap the glacier flowed through, cracks revealing the deep blue of old ice. Lyra slept for the entire flight and that night, staying in a cool eco cabin at Kahere Retreat (one night's self-catering for four from £88; kahereretreat.nz), when she woke up at 2am I considered booking another to get her back to sleep.

When I lived in New Zealand, West Coast tourists only visited the glaciers, and even now most cross back over the Alps at Haast Pass, returning to Christchurch via Wanaka. Yet south of Haast the road reaches a dead end at Jackson Bay, with just 250 people inhabiting a 15-mile sandy stretch that's a true wilderness.

First we travelled up the Waiatoto River near Haast on a jet-boat river safari through the rapids of milky blue, glacier-fed waters with guide Wayne Allanson (£120pp; riversafaris.co.nz). He explained that the Haast Pass only opened in 1965 and by then the forests were protected from logging, so they remain pristine. We saw a waterfall with a drop of 2,700m and strolled through a forest of podocarps, lichen, moss, vines, tree ferns and huge silver beech trees whose branches were covered with orchids and other epiphytes. To call the landscape "Jurassic" echoes its provenance, as it's the closest approximation to the ecosystems of the Gondwanaland supercontinent from which New Zealand separated 80 million years ago.

At Jackson Bay the headland shelters Neils Beach, the safest swimming spot on the coast, which dolphins use as a nursery. It is also home to the Cray Pot seafood shack, which serves up fresh crayfish, chowder and blue cod (mains from £12; thecraypotnz.com). From the outdoor terrace we could see the entire five-day route we had taken along the West Coast from Hokitika, past the glaciers around Mount Cook, to the mouth of the Waiatoto River. "Pretty special spot, eh?" said Dayna Buchanan, the Cray Pot's owner, as she brought our order. "But don't tell too many people! We love it just the way it is."

Need to know

Ash Bhardwaj was a guest of Tourism New Zealand (newzealand.com) and Singapore Airlines, which has return flights to Christchurch from £1,207, including optional layover and tour in Singapore (singaporeair.com). Twelve nights' B&B in the South Island from £1,649pp including car hire, Okarito Lagoon boat tour, Franz Josef Glacier helicopter flight, Waiatoto River safari and Doubtful Sound wilderness cruise (discover-the-world.com)

Three more great New Zealand tours


Hawke's Bay vineyard


Kayaking near Marahau

Dual-island motorhome tour
There's nothing like the freedom of the open road, especially when touring somewhere as visually thrilling as New Zealand. Get the full RV experience on this three-week trip between Christchurch on the South Island and Auckland on the North. With hotels at either end, you'll spend 19 nights at campsites, stopping to see big hitters such as the geothermal waters of Rotorua, the West Coast glaciers and Fiordland National Park.
Details 21 nights' motorhome rental from £3,110pp including camping pitches, inter-island ferry crossing and emergency assistance (discover-the-world.com). Fly to Auckland or Christchurch

Hot springs, beaches and wine on the North Island
This leisurely self-drive trip concentrates on the North Island, starting in Auckland and staying for a couple of nights at hotels or B&Bs in various places along the way. Stops on the Coromandel peninsula, the hot springs at Whakatane and the surf town of Gisborne are options. The vineyards of Hawke's Bay merit a lengthy stay, followed by Tongariro National Park, New Plymouth and the glowworm caves at Waitomo.
Details 18 nights' room only from £5,420pp, including flights and car hire (audleytravel.com)

Adventure on the South Island
The South Island is New Zealand's adrenaline zone and this 15-day tour will keep your pulse racing. The trip starts gently enough at Christchurch with a trip to Marlborough for wine tasting, followed by sea kayaking around Marahau. Between Franz Josef glacier and Queenstown there are options for helicopter hikes and sky-diving before a boat trip on Milford Sound, a full-day hike on Routeburn track and mountain biking around Mount Cook.
Details 14 nights' B&B from £2,849pp, including most activities and a few other meals (gadventures.com). Fly to Christchurch

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Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight

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Situated on a secluded eastern shore, Bembridge Coast is a cheery hotel that boasts beautiful sea views, stunning coastal walks, and a friendly atmosphere. Made up of a mix of comfortable hotel rooms and cosy chalet villages, it's a stone's throw from traditional seaside towns and a brilliant botanical garden. Some rooms feature balconies which are perfect for watching the sunrise over the Solent. Wander outside and you'll find beautiful Spanish gardens overlooking quiet sandy beaches.

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- Nightly entertainment in The Late Lounge featuring original production shows and live music

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Four-night breaks include 12 June and 31 July

Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales

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In a stretch of historic countryside near the North Wales coast, Bodelwyddan Castle sit surrounded by 260 acres of wide-open green space. With 228 rooms, there is a choice between the private garden lodges overlooking pretty ponds, an original Victorian folly full of historic detail and stunning views across the Clywdian range, and the comfortable modern rooms in the main building which are close to all the action. It's the ultimate destination to explore.

THREE NIGHTS FROM
£225
PER PERSON

- St. Davids Restaurant serving breakfast and three course dinners
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- Daily indoor and outdoor activities, with everything from walking tours to rifle shooting
- Nightly entertainment in a dedicated venue featuring live music and shows

Three-night breaks include 2 June, 11 August, 1 & 22 September, and 6 & 20 October

Four-night breaks include 31 July and 20 November

Gunton Hall, Suffolk

EAST COAST DELIGHTS



A distinctly rural hotel just a short drive from the beach, Gunton Hall is situated close to the Norfolk Broads and makes the most of the uniquely beautiful setting. Made up of a several clusters of cosy chalets and private lodges, some rooms boast views of a picturesque 5-acre lake. The surrounding woodland gives the hotel a peacefully secluded feeling, and winding paths through the grounds will take you past rose gardens and the orchard.

THREE NIGHTS FROM
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- Access to spa and leisure facilities including a 23 metre swimming pool, steam room and sauna

Three-night breaks include 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 June, and 7 July

Four-night breaks include 12 & 19 June, and 3, 17 & 24 July

Sinah Warren, Hampshire

SOUTH COAST SEA VIEWS



A renovated 15th century health farm, this elegant hotel retains all the architectural charm of a quaint barn but with several contemporary touches. Overlooking the Langston Harbour on Hayling Island, some rooms boast balconies or patios that take in fresh sea air and gorgeous views. The grounds are dotted with coastal flora and picnic tables. Portsmouth Harbour is just a short drive away but, if you prefer walking, the coastline makes for a great path.

THREE NIGHTS FROM
£249
PER PERSON

- Breakfast and dinner in The Driftwood Restaurant
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Next, explore the incredible sights of India's most popular destinations, Delhi, Agra and Jaipur on your Golden Triangle tour. Beginning in Delhi, one of the most historic capitals in the world, discover its multi-layered existence and vibrant street life. A full day tour here will reveal the contrasts of Old and New Delhi, from the magnificent Red Fort, to the most elegant mosque in India, the Jama Masjid. Next, you'll travel to Agra for the highlight of your tour: a visit to the world-famous Taj Mahal. An architectural masterpiece in white marble, the Taj Mahal is perhaps the world's greatest monument dedicated to love. Built by order of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal is made up of numerous buildings, gardens, lakes and fountains, all organised in perfect symmetry.

From here, you'll venture into the wilderness where you'll enjoy a hotel stay at Ranthambore National Park. Here you'll enjoy close encounters with India's wildlife, comprising of tigers, leopards, jackals, sloth bears and Indian wild boar^.

Your Golden Triangle tour then continues with a journey to Jaipur. Discover the deserted 16th century city of Fatehpur Sikri before reaching the 'Pink City' with its colourful old quarters and beautiful surrounding countryside. Admire the fairy-tale Amber Fort, an extensive palace with painted murals and intricately carved hallways. See the intriguing Hawa Mahal, known as the Palace of Winds, a five-storey wonder with a pyramidal façade, overhanging windows with captivating, latticed screens, domes and spires. And enjoy the view of Maota Lake, the historic town at the base of the hill, which formed the early seat of the Amber kings.

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

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The Times hotel guide

The Manor Coastal Hotel & Inn

Norfolk

VICTORIA GIBBS



The conservatory



A bedroom

Rooms and suites 7/10
Food and drink 8/10
What else does it offer? n/a
Where is it? 9/10
Overall score 8/10

There's a clue in the name. The Coaching Inn Group launched in 1996 in Boston, Lincolnshire, with a mission to rescue traditional coaching inns in picture-postcard locations and restore them to their former glory. The company has since broadened its remit to include characterful small hotels; last June, it acquired this Georgian manor in Blakeney. The 18th-century house certainly fulfils the group's criteria. It was in need of the full-on defibrillator treatment, and Blakeney is a super-cute coastal village set amid wistful salt marshes and a nature reserve.

Rooms and suites
Norfolk tourism tends to focus on wildlife rather than nightlife and these 35 rooms have a slow-paced charm that reflects the nature-watching spots on the hotel's doorstep, which are among the UK's best. The eight bedrooms in the main house come with elegant Georgian proportions; the rest are divided between the photogenic flint-and-brick stables and the garden outbuildings. All are spacious and many-layered, with generous touches including Dyson hairdryers, lavender pillow mists and handmade chocolates by the local artisan producer Harris & James.

Food and drink
Eat in the conservatory, bar or restaurant, but start your evening on one of the colourful Adirondack chairs on the lawn, watching the sun set over the salt marshes. Considering you can practically see the fishermen landing their catch from here, it would be rude not to order their produce. The Cromer crab linguine deftly mixes chilli and dill. For foodie theatre, there's chalk stream trout served under a cloche, a puff of oaky smoke escaping as the lid is lifted.

Susan d'Arcy was a guest of the Manor Coastal Hotel & Inn, which has B&B doubles from £191; mains from £13.95 (blakeneymanor.co.uk)

What else does it offer?
There's a boot room piled high with Woodside wellies to borrow in various shades, from boring black to shocking pink, but no spa or gym.

Where is it?
The circular 5km Blakeney Freshes walk, through salt marshes and reed beds, is a twitchers' fantasy with regular sightings of bittern, redshank and avocet. Or take a boat to Blakeney Point, a stretch of shingle that's home to one of the UK's largest colonies of common and grey seals (£20 for adults/£10 for children; beansboattrips.co.uk).
Susan d'Arcy



Travel doctor Solving your holiday dilemmas



Julia Brookes
Consumer expert

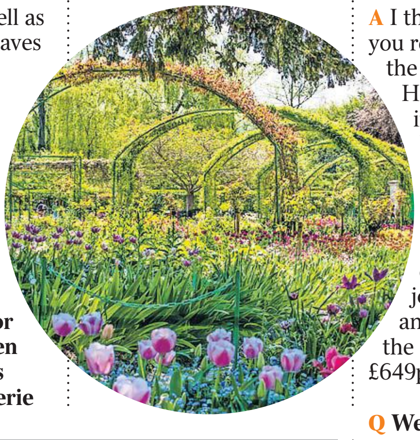
ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY

Q We're two old fogies who have always wanted to visit Vietnam and Laos (and perhaps Cambodia), and we would like to do a 15 to 21-day trip at the end of March or start of April for our 25th wedding anniversary. We're happy to stay in hotels or hostels but would like a luxury resort for three or four days at the end. Our budget is up to £12,000 (not including flights and visas), but we'd prefer to spend a lot less. Can you recommend any trips with ethical tour operators?
Melody Simmonds

A You have more than enough for an epic anniversary trip. InsideAsia Tours, which promises that all holidays will be carbon neutral, has a 15-night World Heritage Indochina self-guided tour through Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in an anti-clockwise loop from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap, with a night on a traditional junk in Lan Ha Bay, Halong's quieter neighbour, en route. It starts at £2,469pp, including accommodation, guiding and activities (but not flights) and can be customised, so you can add on a plush resort stay (insideasiatours.com). Or go off-grid with Undiscovered Destinations, which only uses small, local suppliers. It has a 15-night Laos and Vietnam small group tour that visits Laotian hill tribe villages and includes a river journey into the Nam Et-Phou Louey National Protected Area in search of sambar deer, as well as a clamber through the former war caves of Viengsay before heading into northern Vietnam for a stay with a local family. It starts at £3,295pp in April, including B&B in hotels and eco lodges, plus some meals (undiscovered-destinations.com). Return flights into Luang Prabang and back from Hanoi start from £700pp.



Lan Ha Bay, Vietnam. Below: Monet's garden, Giverny, France



Q My husband and I are looking for an organised tour to Monet's garden in Giverny. We also want to see his paintings at the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris, and visit Versailles on the same trip. Many operators offer Giverny and Versailles, but I can't find one that includes the Orangerie too. Do you know one?
Sue Hockenhull

A I think you may have to be creative if you really want to see *The Water Lilies* at the Orangerie as part of the trip. Leger Holidays has a four-night coach tour including Giverny and Versailles, based at a three-star hotel in Rouen, and if you duck out of the fourth day of the itinerary (missing cheese and Calvados tasting on a day out to the Pays d'Auge), you could make the 90-minute train journey to Paris's Gare Saint-Lazare and then take a quick metro ride to the Orangerie. The holiday starts at £649pp, including B&B (leger.co.uk).

Q We're two mums, each with a seven-year-old boy. We'd like a two-night affordable summer getaway that's within a two-and-a-half-hour drive of London. Our budget is £500. Any tips?
Katie Packway

A Stay at the Experience Freedom campsite in Brighton and you're in a quiet spot that's a 20-minute walk from the beach and marina; there's also a playground (and shop) on site. Heated glamping pod micro lodges sleep up to four in a double bed and bunk bed, have decking and barbecues and cost £258 for two nights from July 24. If you're happy with something more basic and can bring your own bedding, wooden camping pods sleep two on two camp beds (or a double futon) and cost £118 for two nights (experiencefreedom.co.uk).

Q While we were in Portugal, my ten-month-old and eight-year-old caught chicken pox. We changed our easyJet flights and I waited seven days from the last spot to return to the UK. (My husband and pox-free second child flew back on the original return date.) We'd carefully checked the easyJet website, which described waiting seven days from the appearance of the last spot and clearly stated that fit to fly certificates were only necessary for major infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. None of this mattered to the gate agent, who refused us boarding based on the scabs my youngest was sporting. I managed to flag a taxi to the nearby private hospital and paid £105 for a fit to fly certificate for the baby (she wasn't infectious), and got back to the airport in time for a frantic sprint to the plane. However, seeing that the child seated behind us also had chicken pox marks on the face, I asked the child's parents if they'd had the same experience. Not at all — nobody had questioned the child's pox. The sudden imposition of a rule not mentioned in the easyJet small print was frustrating, but seeing how arbitrarily and unfairly it was applied was infuriating. Can I at least get a refund for the cost of the test?
Lucy Shipley

A You're quite right, there's no mention of a fit to fly certificate for chicken pox on easyJet's website, but this cut no ice with the airline, which is not prepared to offer any sort of compensation. A spokesperson said: "As we set out in our medical policy, passengers travelling with a minor infectious disease are permitted to fly without a fit to fly certificate if they meet certain guidelines, but our ground teams may use their discretion to request medical certification if they have reason to believe a passenger is not fit to fly, which they have a duty to take into consideration in the interest of the health and wellbeing of all on board." If this is the case, this should be added to its online medical information.

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If you have a gripe, suggestion or question relating to your holidays, please email **traveldoctor@thetimes.co.uk**



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Don't put up with this

Honeymoon hotel booking scam

I fell victim to a scam through Booking.com. I booked a hotel in Rome for our honeymoon and was then contacted by someone posing as a hotel employee via WhatsApp asking me to update my card details to reserve the booking. Thinking this was fishy, I asked them to contact me via Booking.com's website. I received a message through Booking.com, with a link that looked official, to update my card details. Unfortunately, £1,057 (the hotel cost) was taken from my account, but neither by the hotel nor Booking.com. I have contacted both parties who insist it's the other's fault, and am getting nowhere, despite hours on the phone to customer service. I paid with a debit card, and my bank says there's little they can do. Can you help?
Tom Appleyard

This is a deeply worrying incident. Booking.com said it was aware some of its accommodation partners had been targeted by phishing incidents, and their accounts were affected. A spokeswoman said: "These accounts were quickly locked by Booking.com to help reduce any further risk and we have actively been supporting our partners, as well as any potentially impacted customers, including in this instance, where we have reimbursed the affected customer for the total amount paid." She added that anyone using Booking.com should never share personal details with any of its accommodation providers and only make payments via its platform, where it has "guided, secure payment processes".*

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27 NIGHTS DEPARTING 3RD JANUARY 2025

JANUARY 2025

Fri 3 — **Fly for FREE>> from London to Bridgetown, Barbados** (regional and premium class flights may be available on request>). Upon arrival, transfer to a hotel for your overnight stay

Sat 4 — **Bridgetown, Barbados**
This morning, transfer to the port and embark the elegant 5★ *Sirena* for your 25 night Amazon & Caribbean voyage

Sun 5 — **Scarborough, Tobago**

Wed 8 — ***★Cruising the Amazon River★***
Everyone knows the name, but only an intrepid handful of travellers get to experience the remarkable sights and sounds of the Amazon. Sail along the vast Amazon River as it flows through the heart of the world's largest tropical rainforest, searching for vivacious wildlife as you float among the trees

Thu 9 — **Santarém, Brazil ★Amazon River★**

Fri 10 — **Boca da Valeria, Brazil ★Amazon River★**

Sat 11 - Sun 12 — **Manaus, Brazil** (arrive late am – overnight)
★Amazon River★ ★Recommended Excursion×: Caiman Spotting
Depart Manaus by riverboat and glide upstream, listening to the sights and sounds of the rainforest at night-time, before transferring to motorized canoe. Watch in wonder as your seasoned guide locates and briefly hypnotizes caimans with a flashlight, and be sure to capture photos of these primal forest crocodilians



Macaw, Amazon

Mon 13 — **Parintins, Brazil** (arrive late am) **★Amazon River★**

Tue 14 — **Alter do Chão, Brazil ★Amazon River★**

Wed 15 — ***★Cruising the Amazon River★***

Fri 17 — **Devil's Island, French Guiana**

Sun 19 — **St. George's, Grenada**
★Recommended Excursion×: The Spice of Our Lives
Enjoy a visit to a nutmeg manufacturer to learn about unusual spices and herbs grown throughout Grenada – the 'Spice Island' – followed by a chance to sample several premium rums made with local sugarcane at a distillery

Mon 20 — **Îles des Saintes, Guadeloupe** (arrive late am)

Tue 21 — **Rodney Bay, St. Lucia**

Wed 22 — **Bridgetown, Barbados**

Thu 23 — **Fort-de-France, Martinique**

Fri 24 — **Gustavia, Saint Barthélemy**

Sat 25 — **Roseau, Dominica**

Sun 26 — **Castries, St. Lucia**

Mon 27 — **Kingstown, St. Vincent**

Tue 28 — **St. George's, Grenada**

Wed 29 — **Bridgetown, Barbados**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your **FREE>>** overnight flight to London (regional and premium class flights may be available on request>)

Thu 30 — **Arrive in London**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

WHAT'S INCLUDED
IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD PROMOTION

READER OFFERS LTD EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL OFFER

- **EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS OF UP TO 30%± – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY, EXCLUSIVE FARES WILL INCREASE**
- **BOOK by 8pm 27th May 2023 and receive an EXCLUSIVE FREE Duo of Wine to enjoy with our compliments+**

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY - SUITES ARE SELLING FAST

- Pre-cruise hotel stay in Bridgetown, Barbados
- 25 nights full board 5★ luxury cruising on board the elegant *Sirena* including:
  - Choose from either **$1,200** on board spending money* **OR 12 FREE** shore excursions×
  - **Exclusive FREE Prestige drinks package FOR ALL BOOKINGS++ – Unlimited premium spirits, Champagne, wine and beer wherever and whenever, worth up to £3,000**
  - **FREE** Wi-Fi for all bookings++
  - Small, luxurious ship with no more than 684 guests
  - Elegant, casual ambience, no jacket or tie required
  - **FREE** Speciality Dining throughout your voyage
  - Experience 'The Finest Cuisine at Sea®'
  - 24-hour butler service in all suites
  - **FREE** shuttles from the port to the city centre in most ports
  - **FREE** fitness classes on board & laundry facilities
- **FREE FLIGHTS** for all bookings>> (regional and premium class flights may be available on request>) and overseas transfers

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STATEROOM/SUITE	GRADE	BROCHURE FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
Inside	G	~~£9,529~~	**£6,499**
Deluxe Ocean View	C2	~~£10,259~~	**£7,229**
Veranda	B1	~~£12,199~~	**£8,999**
Concierge Veranda	A1	~~£12,849~~	**£9,749**
Penthouse Suite	PH1	~~£15,439~~	**£12,199**
Owner's Suite	OS	~~£22,729~~	**£19,349**

Solo fares are available on request

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Fares are per person based on two adults sharing, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Ports may require a tender. >Will incur supplementary costs and may require an additional overnight stay. Flights are subject to schedule changes and may be based on indirect services with flights arriving same day or overnight. Flights will be confirmed closer to departure which may affect your overall holiday duration and an additional overnight hotel stay may be required. >>Subject to availability. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing. *On board spend is per stateroom/suite. ++Subject to the cruise line's T&Cs. ×Choice of free excursions exclude Wellness Tours, Go local, Oceania Select, Oceania Exclusive, Executive Collection, Food and Wine Trails, Wellness and Culinary Discovery Tours. Shore excursions must be booked at least 14 days prior to departure. Tours are subject to availability and change. 5★ refers to the cruise element only. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. +Duo of Wine is based on one per booking, for UK mainland addresses only. ††Cruise Miles® T&Cs apply. Oceania Cruises® T&Cs apply. E&OE.

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45 NIGHTS DEPARTING 9TH JANUARY 2025

BESTSELLING ITINERARY

JANUARY 2025

Thu 9 — **Embark *Ambition* and depart London Tilbury**

Tue 14 — **Praia da Vitória, Azores**

Wed 15 — **Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores**

Wed 22 — **St. John's, Antigua**

Thu 23 — **Basseterre, St. Kitts**

Mon 27 - Wed 29 — **Havana, Cuba** (two nights)
Sometimes referred to as the Rome of the Caribbean, it's impossible not to feel enchanted by Cuba's capital city's charm, with its Spanish architecture, classic American cars and gorgeous tropical climate

Fri 31 — **Santiago de Cuba, Cuba**

FEBRUARY 2025

Sat 1 — **Ocho Rios, Jamaica**

Tue 4 — **Willemstad, Curaçao**
The capital of Curacao is a Caribbean delight, with its friendly multicoloured buildings, enviable climate, charming shopping, colonial architecture - and famous casinos where you can flirt with Lady Luck

Thu 6 — **Scarborough, Tobago**

Fri 7 — **St. George's, Granada**

Sat 8 — **Bridgetown, Barbados**
Barbados' beating heart, Bridgetown is arguably the most idyllic spot in the Caribbean. Lose yourself in the effortless rhythm of this capital city turned UNESCO World Heritage-listed site

Sun 16 — **Funchal, Madeira**

Wed 19 — **Lisbon, Portugal**

Thu 20 — **Leixões (for Oporto), Portugal**

Sun 23 — **Arrive in London Tilbury**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

WHAT'S INCLUDED
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BOOK WITH READER OFFERS LTD - THE UK's NO.1 INDEPENDENT CRUISE SPECIALIST

- 45 nights, full board cruising on board ***Ambition***, including:
  - **INCREDIBLE SAVINGS OF UP TO 30%±**
  - **FREE** on board spend of up to **£300*** for Ocean View (6†) and above
  - **UPGRADE** to all-inclusive drinks & gratuities from only **£30pp** per night++
  - A wide range of entertainment
  - Informative guest speakers
  - Use of gym, swimming pool, hot tubs and spa access
  - The currency on board is pound sterling
- Book by 8pm 27th May 2023 to receive an **EXCLUSIVE FREE** Trio of Wines to enjoy with our compliments, **EXCLUSIVELY** for readers of The Times+

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Earn up to **24,298** Cruise Miles® worth **£242**, when booking with Reader Offers Ltd††

YOUR INCREDIBLE READER OFFERS LTD LAUNCH FARES

CABIN	GRADE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
Standard Inside	1	~~£3,749~~	£2,989
Standard Ocean View	6†	~~£4,999~~	£3,729
Premium Ocean View	12	~~£6,239~~	£4,339
Premium Balcony	16	~~£9,249~~	£7,359
Junior Suite	JS	~~£9,989~~	£7,549
De Luxe Suite	DS	~~£17,469~~	£12,149

Single cabins are available from £5,369

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Fares are per person based on two adults sharing, except single cabins, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Ports may require a tender. All guests are required to be fully Covid-19 vaccinated. Gratuities of £5.00 per person per night are automatically added to guests on board account. ++Subject to the cruise line's T&Cs. *On board spend is per cabin. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing. †Denotes obstructed view. +Trio of Wines is based on one per booking, for UK mainland addresses only. ††Cruise Miles® T&Cs apply. For full ROL Cruise T&Cs visit www.rolcruise.co.uk. E&OE.